



INDEPENDENCE DAY OF INDIA (August 15) Special Edition

The INDIAN PANORAMA

Will bring out a profusely illustrated special edition to mark the 75th Year of Independence Day of India, being celebrated by government of India as "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav".



Articles and advertisements are invited for the historic occasion. All material-whether articles or advertisements- may please be mailed to salujaindra@gmail.com by August 2, 2022.

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Boris Johnson resigns in the face of a virtual revolt in the government and Tory Party

THE RACE TO SUCCEED JOHNSON HAS ALREADY STARTED

I.S. SALUJA



Boris Johnson resigned as Conservative Party leader on July 7, and would stay as a caretaker Prime Minister until Autumn when a new leader is chosen

LONDON (TIP): Boris Johnson would have completed 3 years as Prime Minister of UK on July 24. But that was not to be. A man who rode to power with an 80-seat majority three years ago as charismatic leader fell from grace as a host of his Ministers, including those who were appointed days earlier, publicly called for his resignation on Wednesday, July 6. Johnson, a journalist-turned-politician who rose to the pinnacles of power riding the Brexit wave, tried to cling on to his position till the last minute. But despite Downing Street's fightback, the intra-party rebellion spread like wildfire, engulfing even the loyalist inner circle.

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Brittney Griner Pleads Guilty to Drug Charges in Russia



Brittney Griner arrived at a court hearing near Moscow, July 7, where she pleaded guilty to drug possession. File photo

MOSCOW (TIP): The detained American basketball star Brittney Griner pleaded guilty to drug charges in a court near Moscow on Thursday, July 7, her lawyer said.

"I'd like to plead guilty, your honor. But there was no intent. I didn't want to break the law," Ms. Griner said in English, which was then translated into Russian,

Reuters reported. Ms. Griner has been detained in Russia since Feb. 17, accused by the Russian authorities of having a vape cartridge with hashish oil in her luggage at an airport near Moscow.

Aleksandr Boikov, her lawyer, said cartridges appeared in Ms. Griner's luggage "because of carelessness."

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Indian-origin Attorney General Suella Braverman is an early contender for UK PM race

LONDON (TIP): Even before Boris Johnson stepped out of 10 Downing Street on Thursday, July 7, to deliver his resignation speech as Conservative Party leader and triggering a leadership race for a new British prime minister, at least one Indian-origin candidate is already lined up to compete for the "best job in the world".

Goan-origin Suella Braverman, currently the Attorney General in the UK Cabinet, is among the early Tory members of Parliament to formally declare her leadership bid, with other Indian-origin colleagues Cabinet minister Rishi Sunak and Home



Suella Braverman is among the early Tory members of Parliament to formally declare leadership bid. File photo

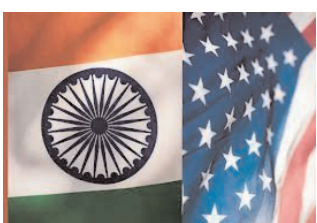
Secretary Priti Patel also seen as possible contenders for the top job.

The 42-year-old barrister and the government's senior-most legal official is likely to command some support within the pro-Brexit wing of her party.

"I am putting myself forward because I believe that the 2019 manifesto is fit for purpose, presents a bold and inspiring vision for our country and I want to deliver on the promises

contained in that manifesto. I want to embed the opportunities of Brexit and tidy up the outstanding issues... and cut taxes," said Braverman.

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INDIA SECOND LARGEST COUNTRY OF BIRTH FOR NATURALIZED US CITIZENS

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The United States welcomed 661,500 new citizens as of June 15 in the fiscal year 2022, with India the second largest country of birth for naturalized American citizens in the first quarter after Mexico. "Throughout our nation's history, the promise of both life and liberty, and the freedom to pursue happiness, is what has drawn millions from across the globe to call America their home," US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Director M Jaddou said on Friday, July 1.

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Among the top countries of birth for persons naturalizing in 2020, Mexico was the leading country (13 per cent of the total), followed by India (7.7 per cent). Photo for representation only



Andy Singh

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Prof. Indrajit S. Saluja

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CHIEF EDITOR:

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CONSULTING EDITOR :

Deepak Dwivedi Chairman,
Editor-In-Chief

Blitz India Media Group

ASSISTANT EDITOR:

Bidisha Roy

SPL. REPORTER UNO:

H.S. Panaser

GRAPHICS DIRECTOR:

Om Parkash Malik

DIRECTOR

ADMINISTRATION:

Gauri Beri

CONTRIBUTING

PHOTOGRAPHERS:

Baldev Singh / BJ Videos

Gunjesh Desai / Masala Junction

Jay Mandal,

Mohammad Jaffer,

SnapsIndia

Mohammad Shahzad,

Zia Khan,

Nisha Rani

Vaaho Photographers,

Vijay Shah - Photo Journalist.

CORRESPONDENTS :

SACRAMENTO:

Parminder S. Aujla

NEW YORK :

Chitagam

FRESNO:

Tarlochan Singh

DALLAS:

Harjit Dhesi, Amarjit Dhillon

OVERSEAS CORRESPONDENTS

LONDON

Nirpal Singh Shergill

SPL CORRESPONDENT

DELHI BUREAU CHIEF:

Chandan Singh

CHANDIGARH:

Manjit Sidhu

LUDHIANA:

A.S. Arora,

R.P.Sharma

JAIPUR :

Dr. Yashpaul Goyal

DALLAS BUREAU CHIEF & VP

Lovllien Kaurr

972-330-3139

editor@theindianpanorama.news

The Indian Panorama

P.O. Box No. 190067, South

Richmond Hill, NY 11419,

Tel: 646-247-9458

Email:

editor@theindianpanorama.news

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Disorderly exit: On Boris Johnson

Instead of delivering a smooth Brexit, Boris Johnson leaves Britain worse off than before

For a leader who led the Conservative party to an 80-seat majority three years ago with a Thatcher-like charisma, Boris Johnson's fall from grace was so steep that a host of his Ministers, including those who were appointed days earlier, publicly called for his resignation on Wednesday, July 6. Mr. Johnson, a journalist-turned-politician who rose to the pinnacles of power riding the Brexit wave, tried to cling on to his position till the last minute. But despite Downing Street's fightback, the intra-party rebellion spread like wildfire, engulfing even the loyalist inner circle. Faced with no other choice, he agreed on Thursday to stand down as the Conservative Party leader immediately and resign as Prime Minister in October when the party chooses a new leader. His position within the party became untenable in June when 41% of lawmakers expressed no-confidence in his leadership in a vote. Signs of the rebellion had emerged much earlier as his government was rocked by

the "partygate" scandal - the Prime Minister was fined by police for attending a birthday gathering at Downing Street in the midst of a nationwide COVID-19 lockdown. The resignation of Chris Pincher as Deputy Chief Whip last week over allegations of sexual misconduct came as the final straw. As chaos prevailed, two of his senior Ministers - Chancellor Rishi Sunak and Health Secretary Sajid Javid - announced their resignations, triggering the disintegration of the government.

Mr. Johnson won the 2019 elections promising a quick, orderly Brexit. But the best he could deliver was a chaotic, painful divorce with the EU whose economic pains continue to haunt ordinary Britons and businesses. There is still no clarity on the post-Brexit trade relations with the EU, and the Northern Ireland protocol remains a mess. As scandals began to hit his government, his moral authority within the party started slipping. Mr. Johnson could still argue that he got a colossal mandate and

that he remained a vote-getter for the Conservatives. But even that position became untenable as a serious economic crunch began to bite. Last month, the Conservatives suffered humiliating defeats in two by-elections - Wakefield and Tiverton and Honiton - which practically sealed Mr. Johnson's fate. The rest was only a matter of time. His successor will inherit a crisis-ridden economy and polity. Inflation rose to 9.1% in May, the highest in 40 years, which, according to the Bank of England, could hit 11% this year. Some economists predict a recession. Brexit remains an unfinished business, which, if not resolved properly, could threaten peace in Northern Ireland. And the government in Scotland is demanding another referendum on independence. Mr. Johnson, who came to power offering a new post-Brexit future for the U.K., is leaving the country in economic pain and political disarray.

(The Hindu)

Convenient lies: On sharing of fake news through social media

The BJP should not feed the fake news ecosystem to score political points

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's comments about SFI activists, where he forgave those who had vandalized his office in his Lok Sabha constituency, Wayanad in Kerala, were an act of sagacity that is rare. In a disturbing, but recurring sign of the toxicity that pervades the country's public space, his comments were presented by a TV channel as condoning the Islamist bigots in Udaipur who ruthlessly killed a man they suspected of supporting blasphemy. The channel and the anchor in question issued an apology, but only after the malicious act blew up as an indefensible scandal. BJP leader and former Union Minister - for Information and Broadcasting, no less - Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, and some other party leaders who shared the same doctored video on social media did not feel any compulsion to retract their endorsement of the fake news. The doctored video clip flagged 'out of

context' by Twitter, remains on their timelines. Mr. Gandhi could be seen and heard as saying that it was children who did that, and while it was a mistake, the issue could be put to rest. The malicious misrepresentation of these words by the news channel and the BJP leaders is an extremely irresponsible act in a country that is deeply polarized. The Congress wrote to BJP President J.P. Nadda to take action against these leaders for spreading fake news, and get the doctored video removed. The BJP has not responded.

The police in Chhattisgarh, a State that is under Congress rule, have registered an FIR on the fake news video and complaints have been filed in other States as well. A police team from the State was prevented by the police in Uttar Pradesh - a BJP-ruled State - from taking the accused TV anchor into custody, adding yet another layer to the controversy. The BJP claims to be a party

with a strong leadership that is serious about internal discipline. If its leaders are not expected to talk out of line from the official position of the party, the question that begs an answer is whether Mr. Rathore is acting in accordance with it. If his position is not the BJP's position, the party must immediately clarify that and consider action against Mr. Rathore and other leaders who are brazenly spreading misinformation that could ignite more violence. The fact is that communally provocative statements are an easy route to popularity in the BJP ecosystem, and the party is either helpless or has no capacity to contain the malaise. By scripting an outright lie, the channel and the anchor further exposed the deep crisis of journalism in the country; as the ruling party at the Centre, the BJP must distance itself from Mr. Rathore's act.

(The Hindu)

New York's COVID-19 Positivity Rate rises

SEVEN COUNTIES STATEWIDE ARE NOW ONCE AGAIN AT HIGH RISK FOR COVID-19 COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION, THE CDC SAYS

NEW YORK (TIP): New York's COVID-19 positivity rate is rising again. According to Gov. Kathy Hochul, on Thursday, July 7, the state's 7-day average positivity rate stood at 8.89 percent, up from 4.68 percent on June 27, an increase of 89.96 percent.

On Long Island, the positivity rate surpassed 10 percent Thursday for the second day in a row, at 10.13 percent Thursday and 10.15 percent Wednesday.

And, since June 27, when only one county in New York State, Nassau County on Long Island, remained at high risk for COVID-19 community transmission - on Thursday, seven counties statewide, including, Nassau, Bronx, Kings, New York, Queens, Richmond and Westchester, were once again at "high" COVID-19 community level risk, according to data provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Suffolk County remained at medium risk Thursday.

Individuals in counties where the risk is high are

urged to wear a mask indoors in public and on public transportation, the CDC said.

"As we continue to monitor the numbers, I encourage all New Yorkers to keep using the tools we know that work to protect against and treat COVID-19," Hochul said. "Stay up to date on your vaccine and booster doses. If you're a parent or guardian, talk to your pediatrician about getting your children vaccinated. Stay home if you feel sick and if you do test positive, talk to your doctor about the best treatment options for you."

The uptick comes after COVID-19 was on the decline statewide, after an increase in May: According to a report by NBC New York, in May, all counties in New York except for eight were designated high risk. In May, New York's number of new COVID-19 cases escalated, with positivity rates up more than 50 percent in 30 days.

Reported case totals provided by state officials don't



"As we continue to monitor the numbers, I encourage all New Yorkers to keep using the tools we know that work to protect against and treat COVID-19", Gov Kathy Hochul said.

File photo

include results from at-home test kits, which aren't reported. While the rise in at-home testing has made it easier for many to see if they're positive for the virus, some experts believe the testing at home has led to an undercount of cases.

With vaccinations for babies and toddlers under 5 recently given the green light in New York State, Hochul said parents needed to move to get shots in arms for their younger children.

LI Dentist Charged In 73-Count Indictment Over Multiple Illegal Guns

MASSAPEQUA, NY (TIP): A Massapequa dentist was arraigned on July 7 on a 73-count indictment related to his possession of more than 30 guns, multiple high capacity magazines, thousands of rounds of ammunition and more than a dozen "ghost guns" that were found in a search of his house in February.



Long Island dentist Paul Carey could spend decades in prison after he was allegedly caught with what prosecutors described as an "arsenal" of assault weapons and ammunition.

Photo / courtesy Nassau County Police Department

Paul Carey, 62, was arraigned on charges including first-degree criminal possession of a weapon, 18 counts of second-degree criminal possession of a weapon, 36 counts of third-degree criminal

possession of a weapon, and 18 counts of criminal possession of a firearm. He pleaded not guilty and is currently out on bail.

Carey is due back in court on Aug. 11. If convicted of the top charge, he could face up to 25 years in prison.

"The surge we have seen in illegal and untraceable weapons into Nassau County since the new year is unlike anything I have experience in my more than 30 years as a prosecutor," said Nassau County District Attorney Anne Donnelly. "This defendant's alleged arsenal of assault weapons, ammunition, and even machinery to mill further 'ghost guns,' is truly shocking, and the source of the stockpile - inside of a home that also functions as a dental practice - is disturbing. The dedicated team of prosecutors in my Firearms Suppression and Intelligence Unit will

continue to pursue these cases, find the suppliers of these dangerous weapons, and stop them from entering our county."

According to Donnelly, on Feb. 16, police received a call from an employee at Carey's in-home dental practice that he had brought a gun into the office, and that the employee feared for their safety.

When police arrived, Carey refused to leave the home, Donnelly said. His wife was able to talk to him over the phone and convince him to come out, at which point he was placed under arrest and taken to a

hospital for evaluation, Donnelly said.

Police searched the home with written consent from Carey's wife and found 30 guns, 20 of which violated state law and are considered assault weapons, Donnelly said. Of those, 16 are "ghost guns" which have no serial number, according to Donnelly.

Officers also recovered 61 high-capacity magazines, seven silencers and thousands of rounds of ammunition, officials said.

On Feb. 18, police received a call from a neighbor who said that Carey had received a large package, which was sitting outside his home. Donnelly said police obtained a search warrant and found the package contained a drill that is usually used to assemble ghost guns. Police also recovered a shotgun, rifle and handgun magazines, laser sights, ghost gun parts, rifle bayonets and more high-capacity magazines, Donnelly said.

NJ COMPANY GIFTS ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES TO POLAND FOR THE UKRAINIAN REFUGEES



Essential commodities sent by Indo-American Quartz in a warehouse in Poland

Indo-American Quartz, essential commodities to Poland for the refugees, the president of the company Mr. Devraj Aiyar told The Jersey has shipped over 3300 lbs. of Artificial stones in Kearny, New Jersey has shipped over 3300 lbs. of

RITESH SHAH CHARITABLE PHARMACY HOSTS FOUNDERS' GALA



Ritesh Shah - Founder & CEO - Ritesh Shah Charitable Pharmacy

ABERDEEN, N.J. (TIP): Over 200 guests gathered Sunday, June 26 at Addison Park for the first annual gala supporting New Jersey's first charitable pharmacy - Ritesh Shah Charitable Pharmacy. With partners from across the public policy, business, social service, health care, and pharmaceutical sectors, the Founders' Gala raised over \$150,000 for the organization that opened its doors to the public in April.

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Indian American Former Theranos executive Ramesh Sunny Balwani is convicted of fraud

SAN JOSE, CA (TIP): Ramesh "Sunny" Balwani, a former high-ranking executive at Theranos, was convicted of fraud Thursday, July 7, for misleading investors about the financial health of the now-defunct health care startup.

Balwani, who was convicted on all 12 counts of wire fraud and conspiracy to commit wire fraud, was president and chief operating officer of Theranos, a blood-testing company that claimed its technology could detect a multitude of diseases with just a few drops of a patient's blood.

Balwani and the company was accused of defrauding investors and patients, in part by misrepresenting the efficacy of Theranos' product and lying about the company's finances.

Balwani began working at Theranos in 2009 while he and founder Elizabeth Holmes, his alleged co-conspirator, were secretly dating.

Holmes was convicted in January on four of 11 counts of fraud. Each count carries a potential maximum sentence of 20 years in prison. Holmes is awaiting sentencing. In May, she asked a judge to toss out her conviction.

Holmes' attorneys in her trial accused Balwani of misleading investors and lying about how much money the company was making. Prosecutors accused Balwani of overstating Theranos' revenues while pitching investors for new cash infusions for the company.

Balwani's lawyers took the same stance against Holmes, accusing her of controlling all aspects of the business at Theranos, including allegedly providing false data on its blood-testing technology.

Ramesh Balwani was born in Pakistan to a Sindhi upper middle-class farming family. He attended



Ramesh "Sunny" Balwani was found guilty of 12 counts of wire fraud and conspiracy to commit wire fraud stemming from his time at the blood-testing startup; faces 20 years in prison

Aitchison College, a prestigious boarding school in Lahore. He stayed there until 1984, receiving an education the British colonialists had designated for "youths of good family." Balwani speaks Urdu, Hindi and English.

The family eventually moved to India "because being a Hindu in a mostly all-Muslim country of Pakistan was very difficult" according to Balwani's personal lawyer. Later they immigrated to the United States. In the Spring 1987 semester, Balwani began undergraduate studies at the University of Texas at Austin as an international student where he was a member of the Pakistani Students Association. "He was very patriotically Pakistani," said one friend of Balwani's at the time, "He was one of us."

Balwani left the campus sometime after 1991 to begin working; he would eventually complete a degree, but

not until 1997 with a bachelor's degree in information systems.

In the 1990s, Balwani worked for Lotus Software and Microsoft. During Balwani's tenure at Microsoft he worked in sales.[6] He claims to have written thousands of lines of code, however independent investigations could not verify this, and numerous Microsoft managers who were asked about him could not remember him. While at Microsoft, he met a Japanese artist, Keiko Fujimoto, who became his wife.

In late 1999 he joined CommerceBid.com as President. It was a software development company that helped businesses buy and sell items via auctions over the burgeoning Internet. In 1999, the company was purchased by Commerce One, another business development software company with a high valuation. The buyout was done entirely with stock, and Balwani joined the board of the new company. In July 2000, Balwani sold his shares in Commerce One, netting nearly \$40 million shortly before the company went out of business, just before the dot com bubble burst. He later went back to school and received a Master of Business Administration from the University of California, Berkeley in 2003. He spent another four years in a computer science graduate program at Stanford University but dropped out in 2008.

While enrolled at Berkeley, Balwani, who was 37 at the time, met Elizabeth Holmes, who was 18 and in her senior year of high school. Holmes pursued an undergraduate degree in chemical engineering at Stanford, but later dropped out to focus full-time on Theranos.

(With inputs from DOJ and Wikipedia)

100 SIKH SECURITY GUARDS LOST THEIR JOBS FOR NOT BEING CLEAN-SHAVEN AS REQUIRED BY TORONTO'S MASK RULES



100 Sikh security guards lost their jobs for not being clean-shaven as required by Toronto's mask rules - Photo for representation only. Image / iStock

TORONTO (TIP): As many as 100 Sikh security guards have lost their jobs because of Toronto's mask mandate. The rules required them to be clean-shaven.

The World Sikh Organization (WSO) has urged the city administration to change its rules.

Meanwhile, Punjab minister Harjot Singh Bains tweeted: "Beard and Moustaches are identity of a

Sikh and of upmost value to his faith. Urge @cityoftoronto to rollback the decision which is against the faith of Sikhs, as it has hurt sentiments of Sikhs worldwide."

According to CBC News, the city has been mandating that security guards wear N95 masks while on the job at settings such as homeless shelters since January.

The city confirmed that employees working within the Shelter, Support, and Housing Administration (SSHA) department must wear N95 masks at all times and be clean-shaven so that the masks provide effective protection against Covid-19.

In Sikhism, 'kesh' is the practice of allowing one's hair to grow naturally out of respect for the perfection of God's creation and it is a vital part of their faith.

In an email statement, the City of Toronto said, "It's aware of the WSO's complaint and said all of the workers affected are employed by contractors and not its own corporate security division." (Source: PTI)

INDIAN-ORIGIN SCOTLAND YARD OFFICER DISMISSED FOR 'OFFENSIVE' AND 'DISCRIMINATORY' BEHAVIOR



Police Constable (PC) Sukhdev Jeer was dismissed from Scotland Yard without notice for her highly offensive and discriminatory behavior

Photo for representation only

LONDON (TIP): An Indian-origin officer is among two dismissed from Scotland Yard without notice for their highly offensive and discriminatory behavior following a professional standards investigation examining a year's worth of social media messages, including a racist jibe about

Meghan Markle, the Duchess of Sussex.

Police Constable (PC) Sukhdev Jeer and PC Paul Hefford, both attached to Forensic Services in the Metropolitan Police, faced a misconduct hearing which concluded this week that allegations against them of exchanging vile messages was proven.

The tribunal heard details of several racist posts, including reportedly one containing a racist slur about Markle, shortly before her marriage to Prince Harry in 2018.

"These vile messages were shared in 2018 within a closed WhatsApp group between a small group of officers. I hardly need to say it is completely unacceptable for anyone, let alone a police officer, to behave in such a manner. The actions of these three are inexcusable," said Commander Jon Savell, Professional Standards.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

INDIAN-ORIGIN MAN ARRESTED IN US FOR ALLEGED USD 45 MILLION INVESTMENT FRAUD



Indian-origin man Neil Chandran of Las Vegas in Nevada was arrested on Wednesday, June 29 in Los Angeles for alleged USD 45 million investment fraud. If convicted, Chandran faces up to 20 years in prison for each of the wire fraud counts and up to 10 years in prison for

each count of engaging in unlawful monetary transactions. - Photo for representation only Image/ iStock

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): A 50-year-old Indian-origin tech entrepreneur has been arrested for an alleged investment scheme that defrauded more than 10,000 victims of over USD 45 million and netted him several luxury cars and real estate.

Neil Chandran of Las Vegas in Nevada was arrested on Wednesday, June 29, in Los Angeles, the Department of Justice said. According to the indictment, Chandran owned a group of technology companies that he used in a scheme to defraud investors by falsely promising extremely high returns on the premise that one or more of his companies, operated under the banner of "ViRSE," was about to be acquired by a consortium of wealthy buyers. Chandran's companies-which included Free Vi Lab, Studio Vi Inc, ViDelivery Inc, ViMarket Inc, and Skalex USA Inc, among others-developed virtual-world technologies, including their own cryptocurrency, for use in the companies' own meta-verse.

The indictment alleges that Chandran caused other individuals to make various materially false and misleading representations to investors, including that investors in his companies would soon receive extremely high returns when one or more of those companies was purchased by a group of wealthy buyers. (Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Vin Gupta in line for FDA Principal Medical Adviser

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Indian American public health expert Vin Gupta, a pulmonologist and frequent NBC and MSNBC guest, is the leading candidate to become the Food and Drug Administration's principal medical adviser.

FDA is eyeing media-savvy Gupta to shore up the agency's public messaging amid missteps over the coronavirus crisis, baby formula shortage and abortion access, a media report stated.

As part of the gig, Gupta would manage a broad portfolio ranging from the agency's Covid-19 response to its aggressive crackdown on vaping and nicotine, it said citing three unnamed people with knowledge of the matter.

Gupta is also expected to take a lead role in guiding the FDA's

communications strategy, serving as its public face on high-profile issues and trying to bolster trust in the agency's health recommendations, the report said.

Currently the chief medical officer for new products at Amazon, Gupta raised his national profile over the last two years as a medical analyst and frequent TV commentator on the Covid pandemic.

He was also part of a group of health experts advising President Joe Biden's presidential campaign and transition on the pandemic response. An FDA spokesperson as also Gupta declined to comment on media.

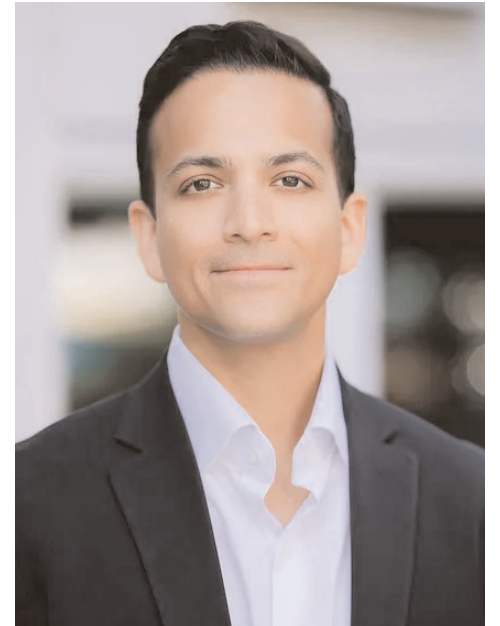
The search for a top adviser comes as the FDA has taken a central role in simultaneous efforts to battle the pandemic, ease a shortage of infant

formula and protect abortion access.

Gupta would be charged primarily with improving the FDA's image and boosting public trust in the agency as a public health authority, as well as serving as a top adviser to FDA Commissioner Robert Califf on various policy issues, according to the report.

The principal medical adviser role could continue to evolve following the expected retirement of Principal Deputy Commissioner Janet Woodcock, a longtime health official who Biden once considered to run the FDA, it said.

Vin Gupta, a pulmonologist and frequent NBC and MSNBC guest, is the leading candidate to become the Food and Drug Administration's principal medical adviser
Photo/vingupta.com



INDIAN-ORIGIN WOMAN CANCER-FREE AFTER EXPERIMENTAL DRUG TRIAL IN UK



Jasmin David from Fallowfield in Manchester is now looking forward to celebrating her 25th wedding anniversary in September after the successful National Health Service (NHS) trial.

LONDON (TIP): A 51-year-old Indian-origin woman who was given just months to live a few years ago is celebrating on Monday, July 4, after doctors say she is showing no evidence of breast cancer following a clinical trial at a UK hospital.

Jasmin David from Fallowfield in Manchester is now looking forward to celebrating her 25th wedding anniversary in September after the successful National Health Service (NHS) trial.

David's two-year trial at the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Manchester Clinical Research Facility (CRF) at Christie NHS Foundation Trust involved an experimental medicine combined with Atezolizumab, an immunotherapy drug administered intravenously which she continues to have every three weeks. "I was 15 months down the line after my initial cancer treatment and had almost forgotten about it, but then the cancer returned," recalls David.

"When I was offered the trial, I didn't know if it would work for me, but I thought that at least I could do something to help others and use my body for the next generation. At first, I had many horrible side effects including headaches and spiking temperatures, so I was in hospital over Christmas and quite poorly. Then thankfully I started to respond well to the treatment," she said.

The previously fit and healthy mother of

two grown-up children, worked as a clinical lead at a care home for the elderly.

She discovered she had an aggressive triple negative form of breast cancer in November 2017, when she found a lump above the nipple.

She underwent six months of chemotherapy and a mastectomy in April 2018, followed by 15 cycles of radiotherapy which cleared her body of cancer.

Then in October 2019 the cancer returned, and scans showed multiple lesions throughout her body meaning she had a poor prognosis.

The cancer had spread to the lungs, lymph nodes and chest bone and she was given the devastating news that she had less than a year to live. Two months later, and with no other options left, David was offered the opportunity to be part of research by participating in a Phase I clinical trial. "I celebrated my 50th birthday in February 2020 while still in the middle of treatment and not knowing what the future held. Two and a half years ago I thought it was the end and I now feel like I've been reborn," said David.

"There is a change in my life after returning from India to see family in April and I have decided to take early retirement and to live my life in gratitude to God and to medical science. My family have been very supportive of this decision. I will be celebrating my 25th wedding anniversary in September. I have so much to look forward to," she said.

"My Christian faith helped me a lot on this journey and the prayers and support from family and friends gave me strength to face the challenge," she added. By June 2021, scans showed no measurable cancer cells in her body and she was deemed cancer free. She will remain on treatment until December 2023 but continues to show no evidence of the disease.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

VETERAN INDIAN AMERICAN JOURNALIST AND ACTIVIST AJIT SAHI GETS PLURALIST AWARD

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Veteran Indian American journalist and civil rights activist, Ajit Sahi, has received the prestigious Pluralist Award from former US Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom Sam Brownback.

Sahi was chosen for the award by the Center of Pluralism for his "outstanding work [for] standing up for the religious freedom for people other than his own fellow religionists."

He received a certificate of appreciation from Brownback on the sidelines of the International Religious Freedom Summit that concluded in Washington, DC, last week, according to a press release.

Commending Sahi for working to secure the civil and political rights of India's marginalized communities and social and religious minorities, Brownback said it was important for people from dominant communities to stand up for minorities.

"In a democracy, in particular, you've got to stand up for the minorities and say that you can't treat them that way," Brownback said. "Else, you can't have a pluralistic society."

Based in Washington, DC, Sahi is the Advocacy Director with Indian American Muslim Council, world's largest civil rights organization of the Indian Muslim diaspora.

"It is an honor to receive this award from Ambassador Brownback," Sahi said. "This award is more a recognition of the brave human rights defenders, Muslims, Christians, Dalits and adivasis of India who are being brutally repressed and persecuted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist government."

Sahi slammed the Modi administration for its allegedly "relentless assault on constitutional and democratic values, as reflected in the arrests of countless Muslims and Christians and the demolitions of Muslim homes, businesses



Veteran Indian American journalist and civil rights activist, Ajit Sahi (left) with former US Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom Sam Brownback in Washington, D.C.

and mosques; the lynching's of Muslims; the ban on the wearing of hijab by Muslims girls in Karnataka; among others."

Sahi also criticized the police and the courts across India for "failing to deliver justice to the victims and siding with the perpetrators that belong to Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)."

Mike Ghose, President, Center for Pluralism, said Sahi was chosen for this year's award for his courageous pursuit of justice for people of all faiths in India.

"As a Hindu, Sahi has been at the forefront of the Indian American community that is fighting hard to preserve the pluralist and democratic values in India," Ghose said.

Sahi is also a recipient of the Voice of Courage Award from the Muslim Public Affairs Council and the Swami Agnivesh Award from Hindus for Human Rights.

The Pluralist Award was also given to Greg Mitchell, Chair of the International Religious Freedom Roundtable, the world's largest advocacy collective on this issue; Walter Ruby, President, Jews and Muslims Allies Acting Together; and Maqsood Choudhary, Founder, Maclean Islamic Center in appreciation of their contribution to enhancing pluralism by pursuing human rights of people belonging to faiths other than their own.

Indian Christian Day: A Day of Unity and Spirit to Celebrate Indian Christian Heritage



ELMONT, NY (TIP): The Indian Christian Day (Jesus Bhakti Divas) organized to celebrate the Indian heritage and Christian spirit to show solidarity with persecuted Christians in India, has made history. As Christians from all Indian states gathered, read the Bible in their own language and sang prayer songs, it became a bright union of fervent faith. The program was attended by Indian Christians from New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut.

The event was organized by the Federation of Indian American Christian Organizations of North America (FIACONA), a forum of Christian organizations in response to the insidious attempts to alienate and attach the Christians through the propaganda that the



Christian faith was left behind by British colonialism in India, despite its two thousand years of tradition. The event also coincided with the 1950th anniversary of the martyrdom of Saint Thomas. Historically, July 3rd is celebrated as St. Thomas day by Christians across India. However, starting from 2021, the day is being celebrated as Indian Christian Day in India and among the global Diaspora of Christians. In the United States, it is estimated that Christians from India constitute about 20% of the Diaspora, which amounts to close to a million non-resident Indians and people of Indian origin.

The gathering, which was blessed with the presence of bishops and priests from various churches, began with a chendamelam and a procession. St. Vincent de Paul Malankara Catholic Church in Elmont became a platform for Christian unity. The conference started with the bishops lighting the lamp as a symbol of Indian heritage and patriotism.

Fiacona President Koshy George pointed out in his welcome speech that our established belief is that Saint Thomas has brought the gospel to India and was martyred in AD 72. To mark its 1900 years, the government of India issued a postage stamp in 1972. So, this year marks the 1950th anniversary of the martyrdom of Saint Thomas. Mr. Koshy also expressed his deep concern growing persecution of Christians in India as the fundamental religious freedom guaranteed under India's constitution is no longer guaranteed under the BJP rule under the Indian Courts' eyes. Last year alone 761 cases of persecution have been identified which have been published in a book form by FIACONA. He said that the purpose of the meeting is to express our pain against such atrocities.

Rt. Rev. Dr. Dharmaraj Rasalam, the Moderator of the Church of South India, spoke about how the arrival of St. Thomas not only impacted the lives of Christians and paid tribute to the sacrifices of the Christian community to the nation in uplifting the poor and oppressed. Rev. Dr. Ruben Mark, the Deputy moderator Bishop spoke about the love Indian Christians in the Diaspora have for India and encouraged them to continue with the unity they have exhibited at the gathering. He described how the arrival and activities of St. Thomas influenced India. The work of St. Thomas is crucial in the Christian faith.



He also extolled the diaspora's love for India. He said that we are proud to be Indian Christians. He said the willingness to sacrifice for the faith was part of the Christian faith. Despite being a persecuted community, Christians are not united. But today, all the sects of Christians are happy to attend this event.

Bishop Johncy Itty, Bishop of the Episcopal Church in Long Island, New York, said that India, along with the rest of the world, is going through a serious crisis today. However, our faith should sustain us in such a time as this. He pointed out that India and the world are in various conflicts. There is no time in life without conflict. But now it is too much. But God leads us by the hand. We may not be able to change the times, but we can make changes.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Ritesh Shah Charitable Pharmacy Hosts Founders' Gala



NJ State Assemblyman Raj Mukherji from NJ Leg. District 18 & keynote speaker at the gala



NJ State Senator Vin Gopal from NJ Leg. District 11

Marlboro Mayor Jonathan Hornik and State Senators Vin Gopal and Declan O'Scanlon. Traditional Indian dances paying tribute to the Gods of service, healing, and virtue entertained the audience throughout the night.

Assemblyperson Raj Mukherji was the evening's keynote speaker, addressing the audience on the growing racial and ethnic disparities in health and wellbeing. He told several stories including how his life could have been changed by the existence of a charitable pharmacy two decades earlier. Mukherji closed out his remarks with a challenge for the audience saying, "Let's celebrate New Jersey's first charitable pharmacy and make certain it is not the only."

With the funds raised, the pharmacy will continue providing prescription drugs to patients. The organization places an emphasis on education and availability of prescriptions for diabetes, high blood pressure, and mental health that can have a profound impact on long-term health.

(Press release)

CONTD FROM PAGE 3

"I would like to thank each of our supporters for making the health of our community a priority," said Founder and Trustee Ritesh Shah. "Together, we are making a difference by providing no-cost prescriptions to New Jersey's most vulnerable population."

The evening began with classical Indian music played on the sitar and drums. Guests proceeded to the main function space, which featured the presentation of proclamations by



Aryan, Padmasana & Deepa - dance performers



A View of the gathering

Photos / courtesy Chirag Patel - Universal Photography

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The meaning of a 'dynasty-mukt Bharat'

BY ASIM ALI



THE BJP'S CLARION CALL FOR A DYNASTY-FREE BHARAT REFLECTS ITS DESIRE FOR A MEANINGFUL OPPOSITION-FREE BHARAT

In the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s political strategy, opposition to dynastic politics has gradually moved from the periphery to the center. This sharpened focus on a 'dynasty-mukt (dynasty-free) Bharat' was at the heart of the party line propounded at the BJP's national executive meet in Hyderabad. Dynastic politics is becoming the meta narrative under which all the proclaimed ills of the opposition parties - corruption, misgovernance, secularism etc. - are sought to be encoded.

Discourse on dynastic politics

At the outset, it is important to note a shift in emphasis in the BJP's discourse on dynastic politics. The charge of "parivarvaad" (dynastism) is now levelled as much against regional parties as the Congress. Post 2019, the BJP has hit a ceiling in its project of national dominance. It has struggled to expand its footprint in eastern and southern States such as Odisha, West Bengal, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu. The dominant force which has checked the BJP's rise in all these States happens to be, in varying degrees, dynastic parties. Hindu majoritarianism alone hasn't been able to propel the fortunes of the BJP in these States; thus, the need to put dynastic politics at the forefront. The Prime Minister said he wants a strong opposition, liberated from the "clutches of dynasty", which he termed a "disease" that is hollowing out Indian democracy. The recent splitting of the Shiv Sena, apparently orchestrated from New Delhi, was hence presented as a rare and salutary development of a party freeing itself from the stranglehold of a family and returning to its true ideals.

Functions of discourse

There are two main functions of the BJP's discourse on dynastic politics, both of which highlight the nature of the party's political mobilization. First, the discourse helps the BJP maneuver formidable ideological challenges. In U.P., for example, the BJP does not contest the ideology of Mandal/socialist politics or contrast it with the ideology of Hindu nationalism. Instead, it tries to discredit the claim of the Samajwadi Party (SP) to Mandal/socialist politics, while simultaneously assuming part of that space. "I am for the society. When I say fake socialism, it is 'parivarvad'," the Prime Minister had told an interviewer during the U.P. campaign. Recently, U.P. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath used the floor of the Assembly to chastise SP leader Akhilesh Yadav to learn more about Ram Manohar Lohia's vision, lamenting how "samajwad (socialism)" had degenerated into "mrigishna (mirage)".

The same dynamics inform the BJP's political strategy against the linguistic-based parties in the east and south. The BJP wants to avoid a competition between regional identity and nationalism - a contest it knows would be difficult to win. The success of regional parties such as the Trinamool Congress in Bengal, the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha in Jharkhand, and the Biju Janata Dal in Odisha against the BJP in Assembly elections after 2019 was because of the effective articulation of a distinctive cultural identity, subsumed in the brand of the party leader.

The BJP's discourse of dynastic politics, therefore, seeks to depoliticize the tangled question of primacy of identity. It does this by trying to make the brand of the opposition party leader synonymous with a family rather than a regional-linguistic identity.



Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray virtually addresses the people of the state, in Mumbai, on June 29.

Thus, the BJP's reliance on the discourse of dynastic politics is necessitated by the ideological constraints placed upon it, especially in newer political terrains. Insofar as electoral competition is concerned, the BJP's Hindu nationalism is articulated less as an ideology (with definite views on subjects such as caste, class and language) and more as a stance of Hindu majoritarianism vis-à-vis Muslims.

Second, the party's anti-dynastic discourse is geared towards the long-term objective of deepening the fragmentation of the opposition space. Even in the Nehruvian era, the Congress was never quite the ideological hegemon in much of the country but controlled the vast majority of the States due to an intensely fragmented opposition space. The BJP hopes for a return to a similar paradigm, but dynastic parties present certain challenges in that regard.

Consider the BJP's dominance in Assam, where the party seamlessly executed its strategy of expansion in a State with a history of regional assertion. This was done by capturing the space previously dominated by its ally, the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP). The BJP inducted AGP leaders and appropriated many of their demands. A major reason why the BJP was able to seize the Assamese nationalism space was because this space was not guarded by a dynastic or personalistic party. There wasn't a single leader who owned the brand of Assamese nationalism, particularly not in the faction-ridden AGP. This helped the BJP circumvent its traditional problem of weak State leadership, even as it bolstered its ranks through defections from the AGP and the All Assam Students' Union, which included the previous Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal. At present, the regional Assamese party space is divided between the AGP, the Assam Jaitya Parishad and the

Rajior Dal. Not even the emotions provoked by the anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act protests could help these disparate forces challenge the supremacy of the BJP under the plank of Assamese identity. In Bihar, the BJP is waiting for the exit of Nitish Kumar from the stage to deliver a similar coup de grâce on the Janata Dal (United).

This strategy of fragmentation and appropriation runs aground in States where the BJP faces a regional dynastic party, especially when the brand of the dynasty is anchored to a linguistic-based identity. For all their faults, dynastic parties are designed to build up the personas of their leadership as well as to resist fragmentation in the long run.

In order to avoid a leadership challenge, particularly in phases of succession, dynastic parties construct their organizations to be closely controlled from the top and restrict any independent structures within the party. Further, they make the ruling family the living emblem of the party values. Hence, potential challengers lack either the organizational clout or the legitimacy to topple the leadership or split the party. After the Janata Party underwent a series of fatal splits in the 1980s and '90s, the political space vacated by it was occupied by a string of dynastic regional parties which consolidated themselves into stable political formations. Or take the case of the famously fractious Akali Dal, which united under the Badals to turn into the pre-eminent political force in Punjab and might now splinter again with the decline of the Badal dynasty.

The Shiv Sena exception

The recent rupture within the Shiv Sena is the exception that proves the norm. Not only has the Eknath Shinde faction required the careful logistical and political support of the country's dominant party to engineer the split, the BJP has also felt it important to hand the rebels the Chief Minister's Office to ensure the success of the split. Taking apart a dynastic party is hard work.

The nurturing of the Shinde faction is, after all, not a benevolent plan to nurse the Sena back to health under a democratic leadership. It is merely the final phase of the scheme, which has been in the works for a decade, to take over the space of the Sena. The recognition of this existential threat was the reason why Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray had moved to the Congress-Nationalist Congress Party camp. In splitting the Sena and damaging the Thackeray brand, the BJP hopes to deliver a mortal wound to its erstwhile Hindutva partner. Without the Thackeray face, the BJP realizes, the Shinde faction will always remain a dependent, fledgling one that can be gobbled up at leisure once it finishes its purpose of weakening the parent Sena.

The argument being made is not that dynastic parties represent a resolute shield to the dominance of the BJP. In many respects, the BJP's dominance has been enabled by the political pathologies that are often fueled by dynastic politics: decaying organizations, the erosion of ideological resources, and de-linking of party structures from socio-political movements. Yet, in this BJP dominant phase, a post-dynastic future might not lead to a strengthened opposition, as the BJP claims, but to a hopelessly disarrayed opposition made up of rump parties. In effect, the call for a dynasty-mukt Bharat is also a desire for a (meaningful) opposition-mukt Bharat.

(The author is a political researcher and columnist based in Delhi)

Russia's Brutal War in The Donbas Proves Ukraine Can't Win

By Daniel Davis



METHODICAL AND RELENTLESS: RUSSIA'S WAR DONBAS LIKELY TO CONTINUE THROUGH THE SUMMER

The General Staff of the Ukraine Armed Forces (UAF) confirmed that President Volodymyr Zelensky's troops have withdrawn from Lysychansk. In the face of Russia's superiority "in artillery, aviation, MLRS, ammunition, and personnel," the General Staff reported, "the continuation of the defense of the city would lead to fatal consequences." The UAF, the General Staff spokesperson continued, would nevertheless "be back and we will definitely win!"

They are almost certainly wrong, however, and it is time to face an increasingly unavoidable reality: In all likelihood, the Ukrainian Armed Forces will continue to suffer loss after loss, surrendering more territory to the Russians. If Kyiv and the West continue ignoring combat reality long enough, Ukraine may suffer an outright military defeat. Based on the public statements by senior Kyiv and Washington leaders, however, one might be forgiven for thinking Ukraine was actually winning.

U.S. retired general Ben Hodges said in late June that he is "convinced that the Ukrainian army will be able to push the Russians back to their Feb. 24 positions by the end of this year." Last Friday, Zelensky reiterated Ukrainian Armed Forces would continue fighting, saying that step by step, "we will drive [Russia] out of our sea, our land, and our sky."

But that is almost the opposite of what is actually happening on the battlefield.

Despite what the Ukrainian president and American general say, there is no valid military basis on which to support the hope that Ukraine will win its war. Consider the situation that has unfolded in the eastern part of the country.

As I outlined in detail at the outset of the Battle of Donbas in mid-April, Russia started with substantial advantages in manpower, tanks, personnel carriers, artillery, rockets, and combat aviation. Russia has exploited its advantages over the past two-plus months grinding down the Ukrainian defenders. Many in the west routinely describe Russia's progress as "tiny advances" and "plodding," but when viewed over time, the more accurate terms should be: methodical and relentless.

Since April, Russia has captured major towns and cities such as Izyum, Rubizhne, Kreminna, Poposna, Zolotoe, Severodonetsk, and as of Sunday, Lysychansk.

In some ways, however, the biggest setback for Ukraine hasn't been the loss of territory so much as the loss of its best-trained and experienced troops. Russia has been imposing up to 1,000 total Ukrainian casualties per day in the Donbas. Reports suggest that Ukrainian troops evacuated Severodonetsk and Lysychansk by rubber boats. Because the Ukrainian General Staff waited too late to order the evacuation, their forces left without their equipment, abandoning large quantities of tanks, personnel carriers, and most critically, artillery pieces.

The sum total of all heavy weapons delivered or promised by the West to Ukraine has been only a small percentage of what's actually needed but will not likely be enough to offset the substantial losses Ukraine suffered in its recent defeats, much less enable a counteroffensive in mere weeks from now. A senior Ukrainian military official admitted that even before the twin defeats in Severodonetsk and Lysychansk, the UAF had lost approximately 50% of its pre-war stocks of heavy weapons. Even the arrival of a few modern Western rocket launchers will not come close to replacing these losses.

Russia, meanwhile, also suffers losses in the Donbas



Artillery at war

Image / courtesy Swedish Military

THE IDEA THAT BY NEXT MONTH THE UAF COULD BOTH HALT MOSCOW'S OFFENSIVE AND THEN LAUNCH ITS OWN COUNTEROFFENSIVE HAS NO REALISTIC BASIS. IT IS THEREFORE TIME TO CONSIDER THE UNTHINKABLE: UKRAINE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO STOP THE RUSSIAN OFFENSIVE AND COULD LOSE THE WAR. OVERWHELMING NUMBERS OF UKRAINIAN CITIZENS TELL POLLSTERS THEY DO NOT WANT ZELENSKY TO TRADE TERRITORY FOR PEACE. THAT SENTIMENT IS CERTAINLY UNDERSTANDABLE; ANY PEOPLE WHO WERE THE VICTIMS OF UNPROVOKED INVASION WOULD DETEST THE IDEA OF SURRENDERING ANY OF THEIR LAND TO THE AGGRESSOR. BUT THE LEADERSHIP IN KYIV AND ITS WESTERN BACKERS MUST NOW FACE THE SOBERING REALITIES THAT DIPLOMACY AND A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT MAY BE THE ONLY WAY TO PREVENT EVEN MORE UKRAINIAN TERRITORY FROM FALLING TO RUSSIA.

fight, but likely at a lower rate for two key reasons. First, they learned from their initial debacles of the invasion in February in which they made large scale advances with armor that were not adequately supported. Now, Russia prioritizes heavy bombardment, rockets, and air strikes and only brings in ground forces to fight Ukrainian troops when Russian commanders believe their enemy has been sufficiently ground down.

Second, Russia enjoys at least a 10 to 1 advantage in artillery and rocket ammunition - and a dramatic advantage in air sorties over the Donbas - and the Kremlin's troops are able to hit the Ukrainian troops with a far greater density of bombs. The New York Times reported on Tuesday that the "artillery war in

Ukraine's east is seemingly never-ending," noting that "the shelling is constant - wounding and killing and driving those soldiers cowering in trenches and foxholes slowly insane."

These Russian advantages have proven decisive in allowing Putin's forces to capture large swaths of Ukrainian territory in the Donbas. It is important to acknowledge, however, that these advantages still exist. The Slavyansk/Kramatorsk grouping of Ukrainian troops appears to be next in the Russian firing line, as both are already being relentlessly shelled. Military fundamentals imply strongly that Russian troops will continue their methodical drive west.

The idea that by next month the UAF could both halt Moscow's offensive and then launch its own counteroffensive has no realistic basis. It is therefore time to consider the unthinkable: Ukraine may not be able to stop the Russian offensive and could lose the war.

Overwhelming numbers of Ukrainian citizens tell pollsters they do not want Zelensky to trade territory for peace. That sentiment is certainly understandable; any people who were the victims of unprovoked invasion would detest the idea of surrendering any of their land to the aggressor. But the leadership in Kyiv and its Western backers must now face the sobering realities that diplomacy and a negotiated settlement may be the only way to prevent even more Ukrainian territory from falling to Russia.

Today Kyiv still controls Kharkiv, Odessa, and still large portions of the Donetsk region. If the fighting continues, however, it is possible that by the end of the summer, some or all of those territories could fall to Russia. As anguishing as it may be for Kyiv to negotiate with Russia from its current disadvantaged position, it could well prove to be the best chance Ukraine has to maintain control over the majority of its territory over the long term.

No one but the Ukrainian people and government can make such a choice, but the harsh reality is that the more the UAF keeps fighting, the more likely it is that Russia expands its territorial control.

(The author is a Senior Fellow for Defense Priorities and a former Lt. Col. in the U.S. Army who deployed into combat zones four times. He is the author of "The Eleventh Hour in 2020 America." Follow him @DanielLDavis)

Bargrari, Burj Jawahar Singh Wala sacrilege cases: SIT report blames Dera Sacha Sauda

CM BHAGWANT MANN HANDS OVER THE SIT REPORT TO EMINENT SIKH LEADERS

BY PRABHJOT SINGH



Chief Minister of Punjab Bhagwant Mann hands over the SIT report to eminent Sikh leaders in Chandigarh on Saturday, July 2

It was Dera Sacha Sauda that hatched a conspiracy to cause unrest in Punjab. The provocation was a ban on screening of a feature film of the Dera Chief Ram Rahim Singh.

This is the major finding of a Special Investigation Team headed by Inspector-General of Police, Border Range, SPS Parmar.

The 497-page report of the SIT was released on Saturday by Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann to a select group of Sikh leaders.

The release of the report has already set in motion an animated debate not only about its select release but also about its findings.

The Shiromani Akali Dal, which had been at the receiving end for the three incidents of sacrilege committed in Faridkot district at Bargari and Burj Jawahar Singh Wala villages, however, gets a clean chit in the report.

The Sikh leaders who were given copies of the report include Major Singh Pandori, Chamkaur Singh, Bhai Rupa, Resham Singh Khukhrana and Baldev Singh Joggewala. Never before has any such sensitive inquiry report been released only to a select group of people or leaders.

The State had an opportunity to release it by placing it on the floor of the Punjab Vidhan Sabha at the just concluded Budget session. However, the AAP government preferred to avoid tabling it in the State legislature. This is the first time that a report has been made

public in this manner.

Though the investigation of the sensational sacrilege cases that were on the center stage both in the 2022 Assembly elections and also the recent Sangrur Lok Sabha bye-election have remained mired in controversies, its findings have generated yet another animated debate.

The case, besides being investigated by different Special Investigation teams,

was also entrusted to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) before it was withdrawn from the central agency.

Kunwar Vijay Pratap Singh, now a member of Punjab Vidhan Sabha from Amritsar North, also remained associated with one of the Special Investigation Teams, before he quit after the Punjab and Haryana High Court made some observations. Kunwar Vijay Pratap Singh quit as Inspector-General of Police and joined Aam Aadmi Party.

The report released on Saturday by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann was of the SIT headed by Inspector-General Border Range SPS Parmar. The five-member SIT constituted on April 4 last year on the directions of the Punjab and Haryana High Court had submitted its final report to DGP VK Bhawra and DGP Intelligence Prabodh Kumar on April 21 this year.

The 467-page report counters several claims made by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in its investigation. The CBI had found no evidence of the Dera Sacha Sauda's involvement and had filed a closure report. The investigation report was also submitted in a challan before a Faridkot court earlier.

The Parmar Committee squarely blamed the Sirsa-based Dera Sacha Sauda behind all the three sacrilege cases.

The report has named Dera head Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh as the conspirator besides naming several followers, including the three who have been absconding.

The first case related to theft of Sri Guru Granth Sahib from Burj Jawahar Singh Wala gurdwara on June 1, 2015.



Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh hatched a conspiracy to cause unrest in Punjab, says the report

Subsequently on September 25, two posters containing derogatory remarks against Sikh religion, Sikh preachers and Guru Granth Sahib were found pasted outside Dhodha Peer Gate at Burj Jawahar Singh Wala. The third incident was reported on October 12, when the "aangs" of Guru Granth Sahib were found strewn outside the Bargari gurdwara as well as in the village streets.

The SIT report said accused Sukhjinder Singh alias Sunny, Shakti Singh, Baljit Singh, Randeep Singh alias Neela, Ranjit Singh alias Bhola, Nishan Singh, Narinder Sharma and Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh (undergoing sentence at Sonaria Jail, Rohtak) were involved in the theft incident and later in throwing around the sacred "aangs" of Sri Guru Granth Sahib.

According to the report, Sukhjinder Singh alias Sunny, Shakti Singh, Baljit Singh, Ranjit Singh alias Bhola and Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh were involved in the second incident regarding pasting of sacrilege posters.

Three other Dera followers -- Harsh Dhuri, Pardeep Kler and Sandeep Bareta -- were involved in the conspiracy and were still to be arrested. They have been declared proclaimed offenders.

The investigation report said there was a direct link with the Dera Sacha Sauda, Sirsa, and the accused, who are followers of the Dera. "It is evident from material/evidence collected by the SIT of Punjab Police that the accused had direct nexus with the management of the Dera.

The report said prime accused Mohinder Pal alias Bittu (later killed in Nabha jail by inmates) and his companions were upset due to the non-release of the film 'MSG-2', following which Bittu organised a three-day dharna at Moga.

The accused were agitated at the non-release of the film and hatched the conspiracy to take revenge. Accused Nishan Singh and Baljit Singh stole the holy Sri Guru Granth Sahib and later the accused used two cars and a motorcycle to carry out their operations.

What action the AAP government proposes to take on the report is still not clear. How the government now takes this report to its logical conclusion will be watched with tremendous interest.

(Prabhjot Singh is a veteran journalist with over three decades of experience covering a wide spectrum of subjects and stories. He has covered Punjab and Sikh affairs for more than three decades besides covering seven Olympics and several major sporting events and hosting TV shows. For more in-depth analysis please visit probingeye.com or follow him on [Twitter.com/probingeye](https://twitter.com/probingeye). He can be reached at prabhjot416@gmail.com)

Pak security agencies arrest mastermind of deadly Karachi University suicide bombing

KARACHI (TIP): Pakistani security agencies on July 5 claimed to have arrested the mastermind of the Karachi University suicide attack in which a burqa-clad Baloch woman bomber killed three Chinese nationals and their local driver in April.

The suspect, who was arrested by the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) with technical assistance from other law enforcement agencies on Monday, was produced before an anti-terrorism court on Tuesday, Geo TV reported.

The CTD informed the court that the suspect is a commander of separatist organisations Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) and Balochistan Liberation Federation-Karachi (BLF) and the mastermind of the attack on Chinese teachers outside KU's Confucius Institute on April 26, according to the channel.

The suspect was also involved in facilitating attacks on other Chinese citizens in Karachi, it said.

Later, the court remanded the suspect in police custody till July 16.

Sharing details, Sindh Information Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon said suspect Dad Bakhsh alias Shoaib was arrested from Mauripur Road, Hawkesbay, the Dawn newspaper reported.

The Karachi University (KU) suicide bombing was a joint plan by the banned Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) and the Balochistan Liberation Front (BLF), in which a "neighbouring country" had played a role, the minister claimed, without naming the country.

Memon said that the suspect, who he termed a terrorist, had revealed that the KU attack was the joint work of the BLF and the BLA.

The banned BLA linked Majeed Brigade had claimed responsibility for the attack on the Chinese teachers that



took place near China-built Confucius Institute - a non-profit institute teaching Chinese language to local pupils - in the KU.

A spokesperson of the BLA, the separatist outfit which is banned in Pakistan, the UK and the US, said that the attack was carried out by Shari Baloch alias Bramsh - the "first female suicide bomber of the brigade". The attack marks "a new chapter in the history of Baloch resistance," he had said.

After that, the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) collected CCTV footage, conducted geo-fencing and DNA sampling which led to the arrest of the BLF commander in Karachi, the minister said.

"During the investigation process, the suspect made important revelations," he said, adding that the suspect also said that he had been conducting reconnaissance of different BLA targets on the orders of his organisation's commander, Khalil

Baloch alias Musa.

He went on to say that the suspect met with the husband of the female suicide bomber, Dr Haibastan Bashir, and another "important terrorist" named "Zeb" in Karachi, and helped to carry out the KU attack.

Memon claimed that the suspect had revealed that Zeb was the the KU attack mastermind, who entered Pakistan from a "neighbouring country" and had been staying in Karachi with Baloch and her husband.

He said that while being interrogated, the suspect confessed to conducting reconnaissance in Gulbai along with his accomplice as well as firing at the vehicle two Chinese engineers in July 2021 which had left one injured.

Responding to a question, Memon said that the terrorists involved in the attack had foreign assistance but it would not be apt to name at country involved at this stage as the investigation was still ongoing. (PTI)

NEPAL'S FINANCE MINISTER RESIGNS

KATHMANDU (TIP): Nepal's Finance Minister Janardan Sharma resigned on July 6, plunging the country in political uncertainty at a time when the country needs a firm hand on the finances in view of dwindling foreign exchange reserves.

Sharma belongs to the CPN (Maoist) faction that is propping up the minority Nepali Congress government, a reason why PM Deuba was staving off demands for his resignation. Sharma was forced to resign after the Parliamentary Speaker ordered a probe into allegations of unauthorised changes made by him in the budget. (TNS)

WANG YI IN MYANMAR, MEETS COUNTERPARTS FROM FIVE COUNTRIES

BAGAN (TIP): In a move of interest to India, the Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi met counterparts from five countries in the central Myanmar city of Bagan. In a way, the meeting flouts the unwritten consensus of keeping Myanmar's leaders at an arm's length after its military junta failed to implement the peace proposals outlined by ASEAN.

Wang met his counterparts from Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam in a meeting of the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation group. Most of the countries at the meeting, like India, would prefer to engage the Myanmar junta having accepted it as an existential reality in that country's power structure.

India has security concerns with respect to Myanmar, directly from the border across where Naga rebels are believed to have regrouped and via Bangladesh which hosts 12 lakh refugees driven out by a military operation five years back. Most of these Rohingya refugees were victims of army operations in Rakhine state, where India is building a waterway-cum-road to Mizoram, which will be the landlocked state's first outlet to the sea. New Delhi believes China can play a major role in persuading Myanmar to take back the refugees as well as usher peace in Rakhine state. (PTI)

INDIA GIFTS 75 AMBULANCES TO NEPAL

KATHMANDU (TIP): India on Sunday gifted 75 ambulances and 17 school buses to Nepal as a part of its ongoing efforts to build on the "robust and longstanding" partnership between the two countries and help the Himalayan nation bolster its infrastructure in healthcare and education sectors. India's newly-appointed Ambassador Naveen Srivastava handed over the keys of the vehicles in the presence of Devendra Paudel, Nepal's Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. (PTI)

Sri Lanka declares week-long school break amid fuel crisis

COLOMBO (TIP): With no fuel for transportation, Sri Lanka on Sunday declared a week-long holiday for schools from July 5.

The Education Ministry decided that all government and government-approved private schools would be given holidays from July 4 to 8.

The decision was reached after a discussion among ministry officials, provincial education secretaries, and other officials, and after considering the poor attendance of principals, teachers and students over the last two weeks, mainly due to lack of transport with non-availability of fuel



for public transport and personal vehicles.

Sending home people who were queued up for days and weeks on last Monday, the government-run Ceylon Petroleum Corporation stopped issuing fuel to vehicles other than those involved in essential services such as health, public transportation, law and order and food distribution among others.

People were asked to work from home and urban schools were closed while others requested to teach online. All private vehicles had to depend on Indian Oil Company-run fuel stations around the country, which issued limited fuel to different vehicles. — IANS

12 US lawmakers urge Biden to hold India accountable in WTO for its 'trade-distorting practices'

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): A group of US lawmakers have urged President Joe Biden to file a formal request for consultations with India at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) over its "dangerous trade-distorting practices".

The 12 Congressmen, in a letter to Biden, stated that current WTO rules allow governments to subsidize up to 10 per cent of the value of commodity production.

However, the Indian government continues to subsidize more than half of the value of production for several commodities, including rice and wheat, they said.

India's "lack of rule-following" and the Biden administration's "lack of enforcement" have reshaped the global agricultural production and trade channels by driving down prices, depressing production of rice and wheat commodities, and putting American producers at a disproportionate



Congressmen Tracey Mann and Rick Crawford who led the group of 12 Congressmen who wrote to Biden that "India's practices are dangerously trade-distorting on a global scale and impact US farmers and ranchers".

disadvantage, the Congressmen alleged in the letter.

"India's practices are dangerously trade-distorting on a global scale and impact US

farmers and ranchers," the letter read. The lead in the letter was taken by Congressmen Tracey Mann and Rick Crawford.

"We urge the administration to file a formal request for consultations with India at the WTO and to continue monitoring other WTO members' domestic support programs that undermine fair trade practices," they said.

The US must not yield for the sake of reaching a consensus. Instead, America must work to promote solutions that will alleviate the global supply chain and food shortages. It must take actions that will address those consumers most impacted by inflation and rising food prices, the lawmakers demanded.

"It is up to the American agriculture to contribute to building resilient conditions for food security for the US and throughout the world, they said.

India has defended its stand at the WTO. Several countries and organizations across the world have applauded India for taking a firm stand in protecting the interests of its farmers.

(Source: PTI)

NEW YORK TIMES LISTS MASS SHOOTINGS IN THE UNITED STATES IN 2022

THE GUN VIOLENCE ARCHIVE HAS COUNTED MORE THAN 300 MASS SHOOTINGS THROUGH EARLY JULY

NEW YORK (TIP): A gunman killed seven people and wounded dozens more during a Fourth of July celebration in Highland Park, Ill., on Monday, July 4.

It was one of several shootings on the holiday around the United States, according to the Gun Violence Archive, a nonprofit research group that tracks gun violence using police reports, news coverage and other public sources. The group defines a mass shooting as one in which at least four people were killed or injured.

The deadliest mass shooting in the country so far this year was the massacre in which 19 children and two teachers were killed at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas, on May 24. It happened 10 days after 10 people were shot and killed in a supermarket in Buffalo.

There is no consensus on what constitutes a mass shooting, complicating the efforts of government, nonprofits and news organizations to document the scope of the problem. Different groups define mass shootings differently, depending on circumstances including the number of victims, whether the victims are killed or wounded, and whether the shooting occurs in a public place.

The Gun Violence Archive has counted more than 300 mass shootings through early July. Of those shootings, 15 involved four or more fatalities, including the one in Highland Park on Monday, July 4.

The group recorded 692 mass shootings last year, with 28 involving four or more fatalities.

Here is a partial list of mass shootings so far this year.

July 4: Highland Park, Ill.

Robert E. Crimo III, 21, was taken into custody several hours after the shooting in Highland Park, a suburb north of Chicago, and charged with seven counts of first-degree murder. Seven people were killed and dozens more,



A memorial to the victims of the mass shooting at a Tops grocery store in Buffalo. Photo Credit/ Kenny Holston for The New York Times

ranging in age between 8 and 85, were wounded.

More on the Highland Park Shooting

Seven people were killed and many more wounded in a mass shooting at the Fourth of July parade in Highland Park, a Chicago suburb.

The Limits of Restrictions: The 21-year-old gunman was able to buy several weapons despite Illinois's relatively strict state laws and alarming police encounters.

Highland Park: The small town was designed as a leafy retreat for people seeking safety and quiet. In planning the attack, the gunman exploited the intimate setting.

A Violent Weekend: The Chicago attack was the largest and highest-profile shooting, but far from the only one over the Fourth of July weekend.

The police said the gunman had climbed onto a rooftop with a rifle and begun firing into a crowd gathered for a Fourth of July parade.

June 30: Newark

Nine people were shot and wounded in what the police said appeared to be an incident related to a stolen car. The youngest victim was 17 and the oldest was 68. All were treated at local hospitals.

June 20: Harlem

A 21-year-old college basketball player was killed and eight people were wounded in an early-morning shooting at a popular picnicking area.

After surging during the pandemic, the rate of shootings in New York has begun to fall, although it is still above pre-pandemic levels.

June 4: Philadelphia

Three people were killed and 12 injured in a shooting in downtown Philadelphia, the police said. An officer fired at one of the gunmen, the police said, but it was unclear whether the gunman had been hit.

Another six people were killed and dozens were injured in several other shootings over the same weekend, including in Arizona, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia.

June 1: Tulsa, Okla.

Several people were shot and five were killed at a medical building next to Saint Francis Hospital in Tulsa, Okla., the Tulsa police said. The police said the gunman was believed to have killed himself.

May 24: Uvalde, Texas

A gunman killed 19 children and two teachers at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, about 80 miles west of San Antonio.

Law enforcement officers fatally shot the gunman, identified as Salvador Ramos, 18, but not until well over an hour after he walked into the school, raising questions about whether lives could have been saved if they had acted sooner.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian Embassy Organizes Event held in honor of Indian defense force veterans in US

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Recognizing the importance of Indian armed forces' veterans, the Indian Embassy here on Monday, July 4, Indian Embassy organized 'Varishtha Yoddha', an event to honor the ex-servicemen who are now living in the United States.

More than 140 people, including some distinguished veterans who had fought in various wars and their families, attended the event here.

"Friends, you have served and sacrificed for Mother India, with utmost sense of duty and selflessness. You and your family members as a part of 4 million-strong Indian community are instrumental in strengthening India-US ties across a diversity of sectors," Taranjit Singh Sandhu, India's Ambassador to the US, said.

"While no recognition and award can do justice to your contributions, today's event in a small way expresses our respect and gratitude and tells you that we are here for you," he said in his admiration to the veterans. "It's a matter of pride, privilege and honor for me to be a part of this special gathering." There are people in this room, who have fought for India in 1948, 1962, 1965 or

1971, 1985, the Kargil war in 1999 and in numerous other operations, he said.

"Today's Varishtha Yoddha event is our humble effort to recognize the sacrifice and service of our veterans and honor them for the patriotism, dedication and willingness to serve and sacrifice all for the nation.

"We remain committed to taking care of our veterans in the same way as they have taken care of the security of our country," he said.

Sandhu said Indians veterans, wherever they go, carry the highest standards of duty, discipline and professionalism for which Indian armed forces are known.

"Our veterans living in USA remain the flag-bearers of the traditions of our armed forces and continue to inspire the Indian community," he said.

India-US strategic partnership is enriched by their wisdom, hard work and high moral values, he added.

In his address, Sandhu said the defense partnership between the US and India has been instrumental in intensifying a variety of pacts between them, including those related to sharing of defense technology and cooperation

in maritime security and counter-piracy.

India has been designated as a 'Major Defense Partner' by US, and conducts more military exercises with the US, than with any other country.

Currently, an Indian naval contingent, including a naval ship, is in Hawaii for participation, in RIMPAC naval exercise, Sandhu told the veterans.

Over the last decade, he said, India has procured defense-related acquisitions from the US worth over \$20 billion.

"Today, Indian forces are operating US defense platforms, including transport planes, helicopters, howitzers, ships and a number of other light equipment many of which have been fully deployed in operational and humanitarian uses, including during the COVID pandemic to deliver aid and transport medical supplies," said the Indian envoy.

"In line with 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', we are moving forward leveraging our comparative advantages and the opportunity for defense industrial collaboration, especially to innovate, co-develop and co-produce for India and for the world," he said.



India's Ambassador Taranjit Singh Sandhu, in honor of the Indian defense forces veterans said: "While no recognition and award can do justice to your contributions, today's event in a small way expresses our respect and gratitude and tells you that we are here for you,"

Indian American Business Council & Art of Living Host Mega Peace Festival with Sri Sri Ravi Shankar in Chicago



Keerthi Ravoori, Dr. Sreenivas Reddy, Chair of Illinois Medical Board, Global Humanitarian spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, Ajeet Singh, President, Indian American Business Council and Vinesh Virani of the Art of Living

CHICAGO, IL (TIP) : Global Humanitarian spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravi Shankar led the convergence of large gathering 'I Stand for Peace' - a Peace Festival in Chicago that attracted a large attendance including ranking United States Congressmen, Local, County and State elected officials and a great host of business and community leaders on June 26, 2022 at the University of Illinois Forum Auditorium.

The Peace Festival "I Stand for Peace" elicited inspiring remarks from the ranking elected officials in the backdrop of growing unrest, violence, crime in

Chicago and all across the globe and the compelling imperative to usher peace, harmony, love and brotherhood. The Peace Meet attracted the attendance of Ranking Congressman Danny Davis 9D, IL-7th Dist.), Ranking Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi (D, IL-8th District), Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle Representative Jim Durkin (R, 82nd District), Adarsh Shastri, Grandson of former PM of India Sri. Lal Bahadur Shastri, Hoffman Estates Police Chief Kasia Cawley and a host of State Senators, State Representatives, Suburban Mayors and other prominent faith leaders. Amidst



Global Humanitarian spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravi Shankar with Congressman Danny Davis 9D, IL-7th Dist.), Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi (D, IL-8th District), Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle and community leaders

the series of remarks, State Representative Jim Durkin (R, 82nd District) said that he would table a resolution on the floor of the Illinois General Assembly to declare June 26th as the World Peace Day and celebrate its observance in the State of Illinois every year - which elicited sustained applause. Mayor Lori Lightfoot also sent a proclamation to the event, which was read by Alderman David Moore in which she declared June 26 each year to be "I Stand for Peace" Day.

Dr. Sreenivas Reddy, Chair of the event & Chair of the Illinois Medical Board welcomed the large gathering and

emphasized on the significance of meditation as a proven effective tool by which we can purify and quieten our minds, thus rejuvenating the body." Dr. Reddy said, as a Physician, I can attest to this medical reality as to the compelling correlation between peaceful mind and healthy body. Dr. Sreenivas Reddy said Sri Sri Ravi Shankar has come to Chicago at this critical juncture in time to reflect and address ways we can advance peace, harmony and love in the city, nation and indeed across the globe teeming in unrest.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

MOGA SACRILEGE CASE: 3 DERA FOLLOWERS JAILED FOR 3 YEARS

A Moga court on Thursday, July 7, sentenced three Dera Sacha Sauda followers to three years imprisonment for desecration of Guru Granth Sahib at Malke village in 2015.

The court of Judicial Magistrate First Class Rahul Garg also imposed a fine of Rs 5,000 each on Prithvi Singh, resident of Baghapurana who was a member of the Sirsa-based dera's state committee, and followers Mithu Singh Maan and Amardeep Singh of Malke village. It also acquitted two more accused, Satnam Singh of Baghapurana and Davinder Singh Harie Wala village, for want of evidence. In November 2015, torn pages of 'bir' (copy) of Guru Granth Sahib were found strewn on the streets of Malke village in Moga. A police case was subsequently registered.

In October 2018, a special investigation team (SIT) of Punjab Police arrested the five Dera followers in connection with the incident. "Three of the five persons named in the FIR have been convicted in the case. The trio have been awarded three years of imprisonment. Both punishments will run parallel," inspector Dalbir Singh, a member of the SIT, said.

9 TOURISTS FROM PUNJAB KILLED AS CAR FALLS INTO RIVER IN UTTARAKHAND

Nine tourists from Punjab drowned on Friday, July 8, morning as a car fell into the Dhela river in Uttarakhand's Ramnagar and was washed away by its strong current, news agency PTI quoted the police as saying. While four bodies have been recovered, five are still trapped in the car, they added.

The incident occurred after a heavy flow of water was induced by rains early on Friday, Anand Bharan, DIG of Kumaon Range, was quoted as saying by news agency ANI.

Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann gets married to doctor from Kurukshetra

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The regular 'band, bajaa, baraat' were missing but the festivities seemed intact as Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann turned groom for his wedding with a doctor from Kurukshetra at his home on Thursday, July 7.

It was a private ceremony without the usual crowds, so much a part of the big, fat Punjabi wedding. Though few details were available, visuals on television and Twitter showed Mann and his bride at the Anand Karaj ceremony.

Aam Aadmi Party colleague Raghav Chadha also shared some images on Twitter showing Mr. Mann, in his yellow turban with 'kalgi' and a gold coloured kurta-pyjama while Kaur donned a red coloured dress.

There were also pictures of the groom at his festooned home, walking under a 'phulkari dupatta' held up by Chadha among others, and at the ceremony.

Both Mann and Kaur could be seen smiling in one of the pictures while another showed them sitting together for lunch post the wedding rituals.

One of Mr. Chadha's post showed Mr. Mann and himself on a sofa. He quoted a Punjabi song of celebration, "Saade veer da vyah, Saanu gode gode chah", as the caption.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Chadha, AAP MP Sanjay Singh and other leaders were also present at the ceremony.

Kejriwal played the role of an elder from Mann's family and actively participated in the wedding rituals.

Later in a tweet, Kejriwal congratulated the couple.

"Wishing Bhagwant Mann and Gurpreet Bhabhi for marriage," said Mr. Kejriwal.

Mann (48), the first Chief Minister of the State to get married while in office, is tying the knot with Dr. Gurpreet Kaur from Pehowa in Kurukshetra in Haryana.

This is Mann's second marriage. He separated from his first wife in 2015 — they have two children, daughter Seerat Kaur (21) and son Dilshan (17).

The wedding menu consisted of Dal Makhni, Chana Masala, Karahi Paneer, Navratan Biryani, Jeera Onion Pulao, Kalonji Wale Aloo and Continental dishes for main course and Moong Dal Halwa, Fresh Fruit Trifle, and Ice Cream for dessert.

Tight security arrangements were in place at the Chief Minister's home in Sector 2.

Gurpreet Kaur (30) shared a picture of herself on Twitter and wrote, "Din Shagna Da Chadya (the day of marriage has arrived)". She also thanked AAP leaders for their congratulatory messages. According to party insiders, the wedding, being solemnised according to Sikh rituals, was attended by Mr. Mann's mother and sister and just a few guests, including Mr. Kejriwal and his family.

Mann's sister Manpreet Kaur was dressed in a magenta coloured dress.

Before the wedding, Kejriwal told reporters at the airport, "Today is a day of immense happiness that my younger brother and Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann ji is getting married and is making a new beginning.

"May God bless him with a happy married life and both (the couple) always remain happy.

Chadha said, "A new chapter in CM Bhagwant Mann's life is



Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and Dr. Gurpreet Kaur during their wedding ceremony in Chandigarh on July 7, 2022. | Photo Credit: ANI



Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal with Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann and his wife Gurpreet Kaur after their wedding. Photo: Twitter/@AamAadmiParty

going to start today. I congratulate Mann saab's family, his mother and sister. It will be a small function. Only family members will attend."

"We all are happy that happiness has returned to Mann saab's family after a long time. It was his mother's dream to see her son getting settled again. Today, that dream is going to come true," he told reporters.

Gurpreet Kaur completed her MBBS from a private university in Haryana in 2018. She has two elder sisters who are settled abroad.

AAP leader and Minister Harjot Singh Bains in a tweet said, "God Bless the Sweet Couple. I am happy for @BhagwantMann ji and Dr Gurpreet ji."

BJP leader Tarun Chugh also congratulated Mann on this occasion. Source: PTI

TMC leader Mahua Moitra's controversial remarks on 'Kaali' sparks outrage, booked for hurting religious sentiments



BHOPAL (TIP)

Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP Mahua Moitra has been booked for allegedly hurting religious sentiments after her comment on Goddess Kali stirred a controversy. An FIR has been registered in Bhopal against Moitra under section 295A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) for hurting religious sentiments. She had called Kali "meat-eating" and "alcohol-accepting".

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that Hindu

religious sentiments have been hurt by Moitra's statement and that insult to Hindu deities will not be tolerated at any cost. Reacting to the complaints against her by the BJP leaders, the TMC MP said: "Bring it on BJP! Am a Kali worshipper. I am not afraid of anything. Not your ignoramuses. Not your goons. Not your police. And most certainly not your trolls. Truth doesn't need back up forces."

Soon after she made those remarks on Kali, the TMC distanced itself saying the comments were made in her personal capacity. In a tweet, the TMC said the

comments made by Mahua Moitra and her views expressed on Goddess Kali have been made in her personal capacity "and are NOT ENDORSED BY THE PARTY in ANY MANNER OR FORM". "All India Trinamool Congress strongly condemns such comments," the party tweeted.

Moitra's remarks came after a controversy erupted over a poster of filmmaker Leena Manimekalai's documentary 'Kaali'. The poster of the film depicted a woman dressed in a costume portraying the goddess and smoking. Source: ANI

CBI ARRESTS POWER GRID EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, TOP TATA PROJECTS OFFICIALS IN BRIBERY CASE

THE CBI has arrested the executive director of Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (PGCIL) and five officials of Tata Projects Ltd, including its executive vice president and assistant vice president, in a case of alleged bribery.

The arrests were made following searches at 11 locations across the country, during which Rs 93 lakh was reportedly recovered from the residence of B S Jha, executive director of Power Grid Corporation of India, in Gurugram. Sources said some employees of Tata Projects were found to be offering bribe to Jha for granting favours.

The Tata Projects' officials who have been arrested are: Desh Raj Pathak, Executive VP and & Head (Transmission & Distribution); R N Singh, Assistant VP & Business Head (Distribution); Nafeej Hussain Khan, regional project manager; and employees Randheer Kumar Singh and Sandeep Kumar Dubey.

"It was alleged that the public servant (Jha) in conspiracy with others was involved in extending favours to the said private company for various works viz. preparation of inflated bills, early clearing of bills, PVC (Price Variation Clause) etc. related to contracts of Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd., in lieu of demand and acceptance of illegal gratification. It was further alleged that the said company has bagged tenders, pertaining to a comprehensive scheme for Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim, from Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd," said a CBI spokesperson.

CBI has booked Tata Projects Ltd in the case. PTI quoted a Tata Projects spokesperson as saying: "We adhere to strong norms in all our business transactions and have zero tolerance to any compromise on the same. We would extend our complete support to the relevant authorities."

Education system created by British not part of Indian ethos: PM Narendra Modi

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The education system developed by the British was not a part of the Indian ethos and created a "service class", and the National Education Policy (NEP) will open doors to take education out of narrow thinking towards modernity, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday, July 7.

The PM was speaking at a three-day education summit in Varanasi, also attended by Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath and governor Anandiben Patel.

Later in the day, Modi spoke about empowerment of the poor at a rally in the city, interacted with schoolchildren and inaugurated projects worth Rs 1,774 crore.

"The basic premise of the NEP is to take education out of narrow thinking and connect it with the modern ideas of the 21st century. There was never a dearth of intellect and talent in the country, however, the education system created by the Britishers was never part of the Indian ethos. The British provided this education system to prepare a servant class for themselves to meet their needs," he said at the Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam, organised by the Union education ministry to discuss the successful implementation of the NEP.

The NEP, which was launched in 2020, aims to enhance the quality of the education system which must provide to all students, irrespective of their place of residence, with particular



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being presented a memento by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan during the inauguration of Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam, at Rudraksha Convention Centre in Varanasi, on Thursday, July 7, 2022. Photo credit: PTI

focus on historically marginalized, disadvantaged, and underrepresented groups. It also aims to create higher performance standards for teachers by way of clearly outlining their roles and required competency. The policy envisions an education system rooted in Indian ethos that contributes directly to transforming India sustainably into an equitable and vibrant knowledge society, besides developing among the students a conscious awareness of one's roles and responsibilities in a changing world.

The PM stressed that the education system should not create only degree holders. "We should not only create degree-holder youth but give our education system to the country, whatever human resources are needed for the country to move forward. Our teachers and educational institutions have to lead this resolution," he added.

For creating a "New India", the PM stressed that a new

system and modern processes were critical. "What was not even imagined earlier is a reality now. Not only did we recover so fast from the big epidemic of Corona, but today India is one of the fastest-growing large economies of the world. Today we are the third-largest startup ecosystem in the world," Modi said.

Before the programme began, Modi interacted with a group of children, who showcased for him skills ranging from yoga asanas to playing the drum. Dressed in their school uniform, the students surrounded the PM as he sat in a chair. A student sang the Shiv Tandav stotram while another played a drum. One of them performed yoga while another recited a poem on the importance of cleanliness. "Many congratulations to all of you. You all have different talents. You are very talented people," Modi told the young students.

Source: HT

Expedite student visas, MEA urges foreign missions

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Indian government is in touch with several diplomatic missions urging them to expedite student visas and the result is that the average waiting time has gone down, according to MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi. Senior MEA officials dealing with Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, Germany, New Zealand, Poland, the UK and the US have been engaged with their corresponding Heads of Missions / senior diplomats about streamlining student visas to Indian nationals.

According to diplomatic sources, three aspects are turning out to be time consuming.

The first one is about fake papers put up by students with the MEA receiving about 50 complaints per month in this regard. The second issue is that developed countries are circumspect of universities using students as cover to help them work in low-pay jobs.

The third is the huge surge worldwide as elite from developing countries are sending their children to study in developed nations as macroeconomic fundamentals in these countries have deteriorated after Covid.

India, China ties show 'momentum of recovery': Wang Yi tells Jaishankar

BEIJING (TIP)

The ties between China and India have generally shown a "momentum of recovery" as the two countries have maintained communication and exchanges, effectively managed their differences, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told his Indian counterpart S Jaishankar during their meeting in Bali on Thursday, July 7.

During the one-hour meeting on the sidelines of a conclave of foreign ministers of the G20 nations, Jaishankar conveyed to Wang the need for an early resolution of all outstanding issues along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh, and asserted that bilateral ties should be based on mutual respect,

mutual sensitivity and mutual interest. Wang said that since March this year, China and India have maintained communication and exchanges, effectively managed differences, and the bilateral relations have generally "shown a momentum of recovery."

China and India, he said, share common interests and similar legitimate claims. On the bilateral issues, Wang said the two countries should take practical actions to implement the important consensus of the leaders of the two countries that "the two countries are not each other's threats, but cooperation partners and development opportunities." He also said the two countries should push for the early return of the bilateral



relations to the right track and light up the bright future of the relations

together. China and India, Wang said, share common interests and similar legitimate claims, state-run Xinhua news agency reported, quoting a press release on the talks issued by the Chinese Foreign Ministry here. Apparently referring to independent stand struck by both the countries on the Ukraine issue, Wang said as the world is undergoing profound changes unseen in a century, major countries like China and India will definitely not go with the flow but are destined to uphold strategic determination, achieve their respective development and revitalisation in accordance with the established goals, and make greater contributions to the future of mankind.

Source: PTI

Prez polls: It's Draupadi Murmu Vs Yashwant Sinha

National Democratic Alliance's (NDA) presidential candidate Draupadi and joint opposition nominee Yashwant Sinha are the only two contesting candidates left in the race for the election to the Office of the President after the last day for the withdrawal of candidature ended last week.

The Returning Officer for the presidential polls, Rajya Sabha Secretary General PC Mody informed that the polling for the Presidential election will take place on July 18 from 10 am to 5 pm in Room Number 63 of the Parliament House and in notified

Presidential election is scheduled to take place on July 18

rooms in state assemblies.

The Electoral College for election to the Office of the President consists of the elected Members of both Houses of Parliament and the elected Members of the Legislative Assemblies of all states including Delhi and Puducherry.

The Members of Parliament normally exercise their vote in

Parliament House, New Delhi, and Members of State Legislative Assemblies including the Members of the Legislative Assemblies of the NCT of Delhi and the Union Territory of Puducherry in their respective capitals at the places notified by the Election Commission in this behalf.

However, a Member of Parliament

may vote in any State Capital and Union Territory Capital if he/she has obtained the prior permission of the Election Commission.

Similarly, a Member of any State Legislative Assembly who has obtained the prior permission of the Election Commission, may, vote in Parliament House, New Delhi or at any State capital other than his/her own State.

With several regional parties including the BJD, BSP and SAD extending their support to Murmu, the numbers seem to be in the favour of the NDA nominee.



Draupadi Murmu

Draupadi Murmu was born on 20 June 1958 in Baidaposi village of Mayurbhanj district in Odisha. Her father's name is Biranchi Narayan Tudu. She belongs to Santal family, a tribal ethnic group.

Murmu was married to Shyam Charan Murmu. The couple had two sons and a daughter. Draupadi Murmu's life has been marked by personal tragedies and the loss of husband and two sons.

During the Bharatiya Janata Party and Biju Janata Dal coalition government in Odisha, she was the Minister of State with independent charge for Commerce and Transport from March 6, 2000 to August 6, 2002 and Fisheries and Animal Resources Development from August 6, 2002 to May 16, 2004. She was former Odisha Minister and an MLA from Rairangpur assembly constituency in the years 2000 and 2004.

She is the first woman Governor of Jharkhand. She is the first woman and tribal leader from Odisha to be appointed a governor in an Indian state.

Achievements

- The year 1997 marked the beginning of Draupadi's political career when she was elected to serve as a councilor for the Rairangpur district in Odisha. During the same year, she was also Rairangpur's Vice-Chairperson. Her tenure there lasted one year.
- Following her victory in the assembly elections held in the Rairangpur seat in 2004, she was subsequently elected to a ministerial position in the BJP. She began working at the department of transport, trade, fisheries, and animal husbandry in 2000, and she remained employed there until 2004.
- She was victorious in the assembly elections in 2004, and this time she was chosen to represent the BJP in the Rairangpur seat.
- In 2006, she won the election to serve as the State President of the BJP Scheduled Tribe Morcha and the District President of the BJP in Mayurbhanj. Between the years 2006 and 2009, she held the position.
- She was chosen to serve as the ninth Governor of Jharkhand in May 2015 and remained in that position until May 2021.
- She was nominated by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to run for the presidency of India in the 2022 elections.



Yashwant Sinha

Yashwant Sinha, the former IAS officer who worked for the Janata Party, then the Bharatiya Janata Party, has been named as the candidate for the post of the president of the nation by the Opposition parties. Sinha, who got sidelined by the BJP, has been a vocal critic of the Narendra Modi-led National Democratic Alliance government.

Opposition parties came together and picked him to contest against NDA candidate Draupadi Murmu. While there were several other names being floated for Opposition's candidate, Sinha's name came late into discussion and got unanimous nod from all parties.

From the Indian Administrative Services (IAS) to the Janata Party, then the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and then slipping into oblivion — Yashwant Sinha's professional career has been a roller-coaster ride. As a long-time member of the BJP, Sinha served in several ministries but finance was known to be his forte. Before becoming the Union finance minister in the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance's (NDA's) first full term government, which took office in 1998, Sinha had held that portfolio in Chandra Shekhar's Cabinet as well (from November 1990 to June 1991). Later, he was the finance minister in the first three years of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee (1998 to 2002). Among changes to his credit as finance minister is breaking the colonial-era tradition of presenting Union Budgets in evenings. Sinha's 1998-99 Budget was the first to have been presented in the morning, a practice that has been followed since. He is also credited with boosting the funding of the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) through a petroleum cess. That helped push the construction of highways across India, and kick-start the ambitious Golden Quadrilateral project. During his tenure as finance minister, he deregularised the petroleum industry and helped the telecom industry expand. He was written extensively about his stint as the finance minister in his book *Confessions of a Swadeshi Reformer*. An ardent critic of Narendra Modi and his government's policies, Sinha quit the BJP on April 21, 2018. Yashwant Sinha had joined active politics as a member of the Janata Party after resigning from the IAS in 1984. He had been appointed the party's all-India general secretary in 1986 and was elected a member of the Rajya Sabha in 1988. When the Janata Dal was formed in 1989, Sinha, a founding member, was appointed the party's general secretary. He later joined the BJP and held important portfolios in the Vajpayee government.

India in history this Week

JULY 8, 2022, TO JULY 14, 2022

08 JULY

1497 On this day, Vasco de Gama left Europe to reach India with a team of 170 people on the way to the sea.



1914 Jyoti Basu, the longest-serving CM, was born.
 2007 The 9th Prime Minister of the country Chandrashekhar died.
 1918 The Montague Chelmsford Report was published in 1918 to reform the Indian Constitution.
 1954 Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru started the hydroelectric project on Bhakra-Nangal in Punjab, the world's largest canal.
 1932 Indian singer Ghulam Hassan Sophie was born

09 JULY

1875 Bombay Stock Exchange was established. It was the first stock exchange in the country
 1944 Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose accepted the leadership of Azad Hind Fauj to make India independent from British rule.
 1951 India's First Five-Year Plan (1951-56) began.



1925 Birth of Guru Dutt, one of the most powerful actors and best directors of Indian cinema.
 2001 In 2001, India announced the establishment of two posts on the Pak border.
 2007 Indian-American scientist Himanshu Jain was awarded the Otto Scott Research Award 2007 for his focus in the field of Glass Science.

10 JULY

1800 The British Government in India established Fort William College.
 1965 The first NCC college for women was established in Gwalior.
 2017 There was a terrorist attack on Amarnath Yatra in which 10 devotees died.



1966 Construction of Air Force fighter aircraft 'MiG' started in Nashik district of Maharashtra.
 1972 Launching of the fully air-conditioned vessel Harsh Vardhan from Mazgaon port in Mumbai.
 1986 India beat England by 5 wickets to win the first Test at Lord's.
 2005 Signing of two agreements related to education and community development in India and Sri Lanka.
 2008 The Central Government announced an 'Integrated Space Cell' for the three armies.



1806 The Vellore Rebellion was the first revolt by the Indian soldiers against the East India Company.

11 JULY



2006 There were serial blasts in Mumbai in which 209 people were killed.
 2003 The 'Dosti Bus' in Lahore and the 'Sad-e-Sarhad' bus from Delhi became operational in 2003.
 2004 In 2004, 7 railway bombings occurred in Mumbai suburban.
 2007 Popular painter M.F. Hussein attended the New York art exhibition in 2007 as the chief guest.



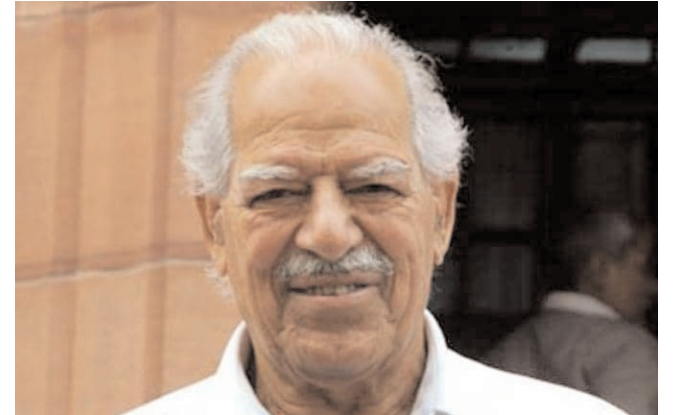
1902 India's famous freedom fighter, politician and first defense minister Sardar Baldev Singh was born in 1902.

12 JULY

1674 Shivaji signed a friendship contract with the

East India Company.

1799 Ranjit Singh captured Lahore from Bhangi Misl, an important step to establish the Sikh Empire and become Maharaja of Punjab.
 1823 Diana, the first steam ship built in India, was unveiled in Calcutta (now Kolkata).
 1966 Indira Gandhi visited Moscow.
 2001 'Friendship' bus service between India and Bangladesh Agartala and Dhaka started.
 1999 Film artist Rajendra Kumar died in Mumbai at the age of 71.



2012 Wrestler and Bollywood artist Dara Singh passed away.
 1949 After the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi, the ban imposed on the RSS was conditionally lifted.
 1970 The severe floods in the Alaknanda River killed 600 people.

13 JULY



1830 Raja Ram Mohan Roy and Alexander Duff started Scottish Church College with five students.
 1905 The Bengali weekly Sanjeevani suggested burning Holi of British goods for the first time.
 1974 India played their first ODI against England at Headingley.
 1977 Public honors like Bharat Ratna, Padma Vibhushan etc. were withdrawn during the Emergency.
 2011 The country's financial capital, Mumbai was rocked by triple blasts. The blasts took place in Mumbai's Jhaveri Bazaar, Opera House and Dadar.

14 JULY



1945 Technology veteran and country's big industrialist Shiv Nadar was born on 14 July.
 1969 85 people killed in a train and passenger train collision in Jaipur.



Aishwarya Rai Bachchan looks ethereal as Queen Nandini

Mani Ratnam's Ponniyin Selvan has been in the news ever since the makers released the first look with Chiyaan Vikram and Karthi's character posters. The makers released Aishwarya Rai Bachchan's poster and she looks ethereal as she has morphed effortlessly into her character.

The former Miss World will be seen in the role of Nandini, the Queen of Pazhuvor, who is on a mission of vengeance. This is a period drama that's based on Kalki Krishnamurthy's popular 1995 historical novel Ponniyin Selvan (The Son Of Ponni). Lyca Productions took to Instagram to share the poster of Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, decked up in a red ensemble and jewellery.

Working with Kangana Ranaut was a massive mistake: Hansal Mehta

Kangana Ranaut is among the biggest stars in India. With films like Queen, Manikarnika, Thalaivii and more - she has proved that she's here to stay for long. However, her journey has been full of controversies. One of the controversies was around her film Simran with Hansal Mehta. Reports had it that Kangana Ranaut took over the direction of the film and Hansal Mehta was not happy with it. He has spoken about it time and again after Simran flopped at the box office. Once again, Hansal Mehta has called Simran a 'massive mistake'.

In an interview with Mashable India, Hansal Mehta once again revisited Simran and revealed that he did not gel with the actress on the sets. When asked if she took over the editing of film, he stated that there was nothing to take over as all the footage was shot by her. He was quoted saying, "Edit nahi takeover kia the usne, to be fair to her, but edit take over karne ke liye kuch tha nahi kyunki material hi vahi tha jo usne shoot karvaya tha (She did not take over the edit, to be fair to her, but there was nothing to take over in the edit. We only had the material that she had shot)."

He, however, did praise the actress and called her talented. But he feels that Kangana Ranaut has limited to herself. He gave the example of She's on fire song from Dhakaad and mentioned that she was talking about herself. He was further quoted saying, "Abhi kuch gaana aaya uska... (She had a song recently...) she is a woman on fire... you are basically talking about yourself. You know these are things you aspire for yourself, you put it there. It's not even my place to criticise what choices she makes. She's a big star, even today and she is a very good actor, I maintain that and working with her, we didn't gel. Working with her was a massive mistake."



Sushmita Sen announces 'Aarya 3'

Disney+ Hotstar greenlights the new season of Aarya. Sushmita Sen took to social media to announce the same. The Sherni is all set to sharpen her claws in Aarya 3. Filmmaker Ram Madhvani has started the scripting of the new season of the Emmy-nominated series. Aarya traces the journey of a mother who can go to any extent to protect her family from the world of crime after entering the vicious network after her husband's death.

Sushmita tweeted, "Sherni begins a new journey. #HotstarSpecials #AaryaS3 development begins." Speaking about the new season, Sushmita said,

"It is a new dawn for Aarya Sareen, and she is fierce. In Season 3, she is going places and starting her own story free from the obstacles of her past. Reprising the role of Aarya is like slipping into old jeans but for a brand-new journey. It feels great to be back with Ram Madhvani and the Disney+ Hotstar team, can't wait to return the love viewers have showered on Aarya."



Sanya Malhotra shares secret of tackling challenging scenes in 'Hit'

Actress Sanya Malhotra, who will be seen playing the role of a forensic lady in the upcoming film 'Hit: The First Case', has talked about the challenging scenes she dealt with in the film, which also stars Rajkumar Rao.

Talking about the difficulties during the shoot, Sanya shared: To be honest, when you're working with actors like Rajkumar Rao, it becomes more collaborative. You just have to follow their lead and react to what they're doing beautifully."

"So, I never felt anything was too challenging or difficult for me and also the credit has to go to Rajkumar Rao because he is not only a good actor but a brilliant co-actor too. So, it never felt like I'm in a scene reciting my dialogues or anything and it never felt that way because it all felt so natural and all felt conversational to me as an actor.

"Gulshan Kumar and T-Series present in association with Dil Raju Productions 'Hit: The First Case'. Directed by Dr. Sailesh Kolanu, the film is produced by Bhushan Kumar, Dil Raju, Krishan Kumar, and Kuldeep Rathore. It will hit the theatres on July 15, 2022.





'Squid Game' star Lee Jung-jae to make new spy movie with directorial debut 'Hunt'

'Squid Game' star Lee Jung-jae said that his directorial debut 'Hunt' is a mix of his decades-long experience as an actor and his dream of making a new type of spy movie. Hunt is a story about two rival intelligence agents in South Korea, Park Pyong-ho (Lee) and Lee Jung-do (Jung Woo-sung), who separately chase after a North Korean spy leaking top secret information that could jeopardise national security. The two end up discovering a plot to assassinate the South Korean president, Yonhap news agency reported. It premiered as part of the non-competition Midnight Screening section at this year's Cannes Film Festival held in May. It is Lee's first film where he works behind the camera in his 30-year acting career, during which he has starred in about 40 films and TV series. He also wrote the script of his maiden film. "Although I've been in this world for a long time, I thought writing and directing are different from acting.

So I hesitated a lot," Lee said in a press conference. "But I decided to take charge of this project and dived into it." For his directorial debut, he said that he spent most of preproduction, which lasted for four years, in writing the script.

Chris Evans to feature with Emily Blunt in Pain Hustlers

Hollywood star Chris Evans has joined Emily Blunt in Pain Hustlers, a criminal-conspiracy film to be directed by David Yates. Yates, known for directing four films in the Harry Potter series and the first three films of its prequel series Fantastic Beasts, will helm the new movie, which has a script by writer Wells Tower.

According to Variety, streaming service Netflix has bagged the movie, which is said to be in the same vein as Adam McKay's The Big Short, David O Russell's American Hustle and Martin Scorsese-directed The Wolf of Wall Street.

It is described as a hilarious, dramatic and wild journey to the corrupt heart of the American dream.

"Dreaming of a better life for her and her young daughter, Liza Drake (Blunt), a high-school dropout, lands a job with a failing pharmaceutical start-up in a yellowing strip mall in Central Florida. Liza's charm, guts and drive catapult the company and her into the high life, where she soon finds herself at the centre of a criminal conspiracy with deadly consequences," the official plotline read.

The film, which will start production in August, is produced by Lawrence Grey through his Grey Matter Productions banner and Wychwood Pictures.

Evans is currently awaiting the release of his Netflix action movie The Gray Man, directed by Anthony and Joe Russo. Also starring Ryan Gosling and Ana de Armas, the film will drop on the streaming platform on July 22.



Lindsay Lohan announces wedding to Bader Shammamas on her birthday

Actor Lindsay Lohan is celebrating her 36th birthday on Saturday as a married woman. The Freaky Friday star said she was the luckiest woman in the world in an Instagram post Friday that pictured her with financier Bader Shammamas, who had been her fiance.

"I am stunned that you are my husband," Lohan said in the post, adding that every woman should feel like this every day.

The couple had announced their engagement last November. People magazine and Entertainment Tonight confirmed there had been a wedding, but no details were offered.

While still single a few years ago, Lohan told Entertainment Tonight that she was looking for a smart businessman and someone who doesn't like the spotlight. Shammamas' Instagram account is private.

The Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen actress and sometimes singer has worked through some sobriety issues in recent years and has recently filmed a romantic comedy that is due to be released on Netflix later this year.

Source: PTI

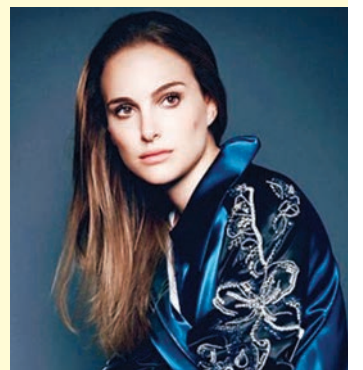


Portman did to prepare for her role in 'Thor: Love and Thunder'

Natalie Portman is returning to the Thor franchise in Thor: Love and Thunder as the Mighty Thor, a transformed version of the character, astrophysicist Jane Foster, whom she played in past Thor films. Unlike many of Portman's former roles, this part involved the actress making serious gains in preparation to portray the comic book character.

"On Black Swan, I was asked to get as small as possible," Portman told Variety in a recent interview. "Here, I was asked to get as big as possible. That's an amazing challenge — and also a state of mind as a woman," she said.

In order to get into superhero shape, Portman worked with certified Pilates instructor, personal trainer, and triathlete Naomi Pendergast, director at Real Performance Exercise (RPX). "It wasn't just about having big muscles," Pendergast tells Shape. "Her role involved learning various stunts that required her to have a strong core and an agile ability to land well. I was definitely surprised at how intense the physical side of the role was," she adds.



SWEDEN, FINLAND A STEP CLOSER TO JOINING NATO

BRUSSELS (TIP): The 30 NATO allies signed off on the accession protocols for Sweden and Finland on July 5, sending the membership bids of the two nations to the alliance capitals for legislative approvals.

The move increases Russia's strategic isolation in the wake of its invasion of neighbouring Ukraine in February and military struggles.

"This is truly a historic moment for Finland, for Sweden and for NATO," said alliance Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg. Despite the agreement in the alliance, parliamentary approval in member state Turkey could still pose problems for their final inclusion as members. — AP

FLOODS HIT 50K IN SYDNEY

SYDNEY (TIP): Hundreds of homes have been inundated in Australia's largest city Sydney in a flood emergency impacting 50,000 people, officials said on July 5. Emergency response teams made 100 rescues overnight of people trapped in cars. Days of torrential rain caused dams to overflow and waterways to break their banks. Evacuation orders and warnings to prepare to abandon homes impacted 50,000 persons, up from 32,000 on Monday.— Reuters

DRONES TO DELIVER CANCER DRUGS IN UK

LONDON (TIP): Britain's National Health Service is celebrating its 74th birthday on July 5 with the announcement of a revolutionary trial to cut delivery times for cancer drugs by using drone technology. PTI

UKRAINE'S MARYNA GETS FIELDS MEDAL

BERLIN (TIP): Ukrainian mathematician Maryna Viazovska was named as one of four recipients of the prestigious Fields Medal, which is often described as the Nobel Prize in mathematics. The International Mathematical Union said Viazovska was being honoured for her work on the densest packing of identical spheres in eight dimensions. AP

GLACIER COLLAPSES IN ITALIAN ALPS

MARMOLADA (TIP): Search and rescue operations resumed on July 5 in the Italian Alps with 17 persons missing after part of a mountain glacier collapsed, killing at least six and injuring eight

The avalanche took place on Marmolada, which, at more than 3,300 metres, is the highest peak in the Dolomites, a range in the eastern Italian Alps straddling the regions of Trento and Veneto. (Reuters)

Former PM Shinzo Abe critically shot in shock Japan attack

TOKYO (TIP): Japan's former prime minister Shinzo Abe was shot during a campaign speech on July 8 in western Japan and was airlifted to a hospital but he was not breathing and his heart had stopped, officials said.

Local fire department official Makoto Morimoto said Abe was in cardio and pulmonary arrest after being shot and was taken to a prefectural hospital.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno told reporters that police arrested an alleged male attacker at the scene.

"A barbaric act like this is absolutely unforgivable, no matter what the reasons are, and we condemn it strongly," Matsuno said.

NHK public broadcaster aired footage showing Abe collapsed on the street, with several security guards running towards him. He was reportedly shot minutes after he started talking outside of a main train station in western Nara.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, who belongs to the same political party as Abe, is on his way to Tokyo on a helicopter from his own campaign destination of Yamagata, in northern Japan. Matsuno said all cabinet ministers are to return to Tokyo from their campaign trips.

In another footage, campaign officials were surrounding him to treat the popular former leader who is still influential in the governing Liberal Democratic Party and heads its largest faction Seiwakai. Elections for Japan's upper house, the less powerful chamber of its parliament, are scheduled for Sunday.

Abe was giving a speech when people heard gunshots. He was holding his chest when he collapsed, his shirt smeared



with blood, but was able to speak before he fell unconscious.

The attack was a shock in a country that's one of the world's safest and with some of the strictest gun control laws anywhere.

Abe stepped down in 2020 because he said a chronic health problem had resurfaced. Abe has had ulcerative colitis since he was a teenager and has said the condition was controlled with treatment.

He told reporters at the time that it was "gut wrenching" to leave many of his goals unfinished. He spoke of his failure to resolve the issue of Japanese abducted years ago by North Korea, a territorial dispute with Russia and a revision of Japan's war-renouncing constitution.

That last goal was a big reason he was such a divisive figure.

His ultra-nationalism riled the Koreans and China, and his push to normalise Japan's defence posture angered many Japanese. Abe failed to achieve his cherished goal of formally rewriting the US-drafted pacifist constitution because of poor public support.

Supporters of Abe said his legacy was a stronger US-Japan relationship that was meant to bolster Japan's defence capability. But Abe made enemies too by forcing his defence goals and other contentious issues through parliament, despite strong public opposition.

Abe is a political blue blood who was groomed to follow in the footsteps of his grandfather, former prime minister Nobusuke Kishi. His political rhetoric often focused on making Japan a "normal" and "beautiful" nation with a stronger military and bigger role in international affairs.(AP)

Jihadis attack jail in Nigeria's capital, 600 inmates escape

ABUJA (TIP): At least 600 inmates escaped in a jailbreak in Nigeria's capital city, officials said July 6, blaming the attack on Islamic extremist rebels.

About 300 have been recaptured, authorities said.

The "very determined" rebels attacked the Kuje maximum prison in Abuja on Tuesday night with "very high-grade explosives," killing one guard on duty, according to Shuaib Belgore, permanent secretary of Nigeria's Ministry of Interior.

Explosions and gunfire were heard at about 10 p.m. in the Kuje area of Abuja when the attackers arrived and forced their way into the prison through a hole created by the

explosives.

The Islamic extremist rebels who attacked the prison have waged an insurgency in the country's northeast for over a decade. Their attack on the detention facility freed many of their members who are inmates, prison officials said.

"We understand they are Boko Haram. They came specifically for their co-conspirators," said Belgore.

"Right now, we have retrieved about 300 out of about 600 that got out of the jail." Nigeria's jihadi rebels have carried out several jailbreaks in the country's northeast in recent years, but this is the first in the capital city.

Nigeria's extremist insurgency, carried out by Boko Haram and an

offshoot known as the Islamic State Central African Province, is blamed for violence that has caused the deaths of more than 35,000 people and displaced more than 2 million people, according to the UN.

The prolonged instability, hunger and lack of health services caused by the insurgency have indirectly caused the deaths of more than 300,000 additional people, says the UN.

The extremists' violence is the most serious security challenge in Nigeria, Africa's most populous country with 206 million people, which also is battling violence in the northwest area by rebellious herdsmen and a separatist movement in the country's south. AP

Inflation pushed 71 million people into poverty since Ukraine war

KYIV (TIP): A staggering 71 million more people around the world are experiencing poverty as a result of soaring food and energy prices that climbed in the weeks following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the United Nations Development Programme said in a report July 7.

The UNDP estimates that 51.6 million more people fell into poverty in the first three months after the war, living off \$1.90 a day or less.

This pushed the total number globally at this threshold to 9% of the world's population. An additional 20 million people slipped to the poverty line of \$3.20 a day.

In low-income countries, families spend 42% of their household incomes on food but as Western nations moved to sanction Russia, the price of fuel and staple food items like wheat, sugar and cooking oil soared.

Ukraine's blocked ports and its inability to export grains to low-income countries further drove up prices, pushing tens of millions quickly into poverty.

"The cost of living impact is almost without precedent in a generation... and that is why it is so serious," UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner said at the



launch of the report.

The speed at which this many people experienced poverty outpaced the economic pain felt at the peak of the pandemic.

The UNDP noted that 125 million people experienced poverty over about 18 months during the pandemic's lockdowns and closures, compared with more than 71 million in just three months after

Russia's invasion of Ukraine in late February.

"The speed of this is very quick," said George Molina, UNDP chief economist and author of the report.

Some of the countries hardest hit by inflation include Haiti, Argentina, Egypt, Iraq, Turkey, the Philippines, Rwanda, Sudan, Kenya, Sri Lanka and Uzbekistan.

In countries like Afghanistan,

Ethiopia, Mali, Nigeria and Yemen, the impacts of inflation are even harder for those already at the lowest poverty line.

The total number of people living in poverty, or are vulnerable to poverty, stands at over 5 billion, or just under 70% of the world's population.

Another UN report released Wednesday said world hunger rose last year with 2.3 billion people facing moderate or severe difficulty obtaining enough to eat — and that was before the war in Ukraine.

There is a need for the global economy to step up, Steiner said, adding that there is enough wealth in the world to manage the crisis, "but our ability to act in unison and rapidly is a constraint".

The UNDP recommends that rather than spending billions on blanket energy subsidies, governments instead target expenditure to reach the most impacted people through targeted cash transfers that can prevent a further 52.6 million people from falling into poverty at \$5.50 a day.

For cash-strapped and debt-laden developing countries to achieve this, the UNDP called for an extension of debt payments that had been in place during the pandemic among the world's richest nations. (AP)

Ukrainians displaced near Kyiv, fear for war-damaged homes

BORODYANKA (TIP): Valentyna Klymenko tries to return home as late as possible to avoid the darkness of her war-damaged home outside Ukraine's capital. She visits friends, goes to the well for water or looks for a place to charge her phone.

The 70-year-old Klymenko then returns alone to an apartment that used to be noisy and full of life. She is now greeted by dim, damp rooms instead of the voices of her great-grandchildren.

Klymenko rarely cooks. She drinks fruit compote and eats canned tomatoes, which she prepared last year, so she doesn't waste the gas in her portable stove. She goes to bed quickly, but can't fall asleep for a long time.

Her thoughts revolve around one question: "What will happen to my home?"

Russian troops retreated from the area around Kyiv in late March. But they left behind 16,000 damaged residential buildings in the Bucha region, where Borodyanka is located, according to the head of the Kyiv regional administration, Oleksiy Kuleba.

The most affected street in Borodyanka, a town with a population of more than 12,000, was Tsentralna, which was still called Lenin Street less than a decade ago.



One of the homes on this street belongs to Klymenko.

The shockwave from a Russian airstrike that witnesses say struck the building across the street with two bombs caused a fire in Klymenko's five-story apartment building.

The apartments on the upper floors of Klymenko's building burned. Four months later, there is no electricity, water, or gas. Some residents lost everything and ended up on the street without any means to find a new home.

"I had a sofa here and armchairs here.

But now there are just the springs," said Tetiana Solohub, pointing to the blackened walls of her home. Nothing is left but a couple of small enamel cups and the suffocating smell of ashes.

Solohub's scorched apartment is located a few floors above Klymenko's. They moved into the building at the same time 36 years ago, when it had just been built.

"And now, at 64, I am forced to be homeless," Solohub said. Unlike Klymenko, she even doesn't have a damaged apartment to live in. Hers is completely gone.

Solohub now lives in a camp for displaced people made of shipping containers. It was established in Borodyanka with the support of the Polish and Ukrainian governments. There are other camps like this in the Kyiv and Lviv regions. It has become a popular way to offer a home to people who can't return to their own abodes.

There are 257 people — 35 per cent of them older residents — living in Borodyanka's camp. Kostyantyn Morozko, a representative of the military administration in the Bucha region and coordinator of the shipping container camp, said that he expects two containers for 160 people to be added this month. (AP)

VIKAS KHANNA'S ROOFTOP PARTY CELEBRATES TRIBECA FEST'S LGBTQ+ FILM HONORS

BY MABEL PAIS

The Who's Who of Manhattan celebrated the success in the Tribeca Film Festival 2022 of Naman Gupta's LGBTQ+ short film 'COMING OUT WITH THE HELP OF A TIME MACHINE' at a rooftop party hosted by celebrity chef and filmmaker Vikas Khanna in Manhattan.

The film had its New York City premiere at the prestigious Tribeca Festival, as part of the closing night block of queer films on June 19. Guests of honor at Khanna's private soiree included Bollywood actor and philanthropist Vivek Oberoi, Delhi fashion designer Mayyur Girotra, Jewelry designer Amrita Singh, Sufi Wines founder Sam Bhatia, New York City's top realtor Jaswant Lalwani, the film's producers Nav and Neetu Gupta and James and Teddy Orfanos and lead actors Karan Soni and Sangeeta Agrawal, to name a few.

"I've always been on the forefront of supporting South Asian culture from the very beginning. My heart, my doors are always open to promote anything to do with South Asian food, arts, entertainment, fashion and culture," said Khanna, who hosted the party on



Rooftop Celebration at Vikas Khanna's. left to right: Pulkit Dutta, Sangeeta Agrawal, Vijay Mirchandani, Naman Gupta, Vikas Khanna, Nav Gupta, Vivek Oberoi, Neetu Sharma Gupta, James Orfanos, Teddy Orfanos
Photo / Fahim Feroj

the rooftop of his Manhattan residence.

'COMING OUT.....' was one of 10 films with a Desi connection programmed at Tribeca, the most ever in the festival's history. "It really feels like our time has come! There are a lot of people from the South Asian community who have pioneered and paved the way for us to stand where we are today, and with Tribeca giving so many of us the

platform that we have, it's truly a momentous year for the South Asian diaspora," said Agrawal, who plays Soni's homophobic mother in the film.

At the event, the director made the BIG announcement that the short film is being converted into an episodic television series: "The series is going to be a one-hour drama, and it's not something that just the LGBTQ crowd or

the South Asian crowd or the sci-fi crowd will enjoy. It's a very international, mainstream, sci-fi, immigrant family drama inter-twined with a LGBTQ romance and rivalry, so I'm super excited about that," said Gupta. The series is currently in development, and the core team is looking for additional producers and distributors to helm the project.

"I think it's really interesting, given the timing of the film right now, especially during PRIDE Month. There are issues, especially within the Desi community, in terms of how parents or children are equipped to deal with coming out, and it is a difficult process for both. But you watch something like this, and it may just make you respond more sensitively...more with the heart rather than the perception of what will my community think of me, what will the world think of me...so less judgment and more love because at the end of the day, that's what family is for," said Oberoi, who was at the event to support long-time friends, producers Nav and Neetu Gupta.

For more information about the journey of the film and the development of the series, visit comingoutfilm.com.

TRIBECA'S CLOSING NIGHT LGBTQ+ SHORTS

BY MABEL PAIS

DIRECTOR/WRITER NAMAN GUPTA'S "COMING OUT...." WINS FURTHER SUCCESS

WRITER SAILESH NAIDU'S "DOGFRIEND" MAKES MARK

The Tribeca Festival 2022 presented a slate of Pride programming. Pride is an integral part of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ+) community. Continuing its tradition of celebrating activism through media, Tribeca Festival 2022 presented a slate of programming curated to inform, entertain and celebrate LGBTQ+ culture.

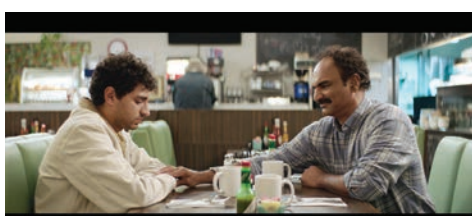
The Closing Night event was preceded by the Special Screening of LGBTQ+ Shorts: SEE ME, FEEL ME

LGBTQ+ Shorts: 88 Minutes | English Closed Captions

These seven short films span the queer experience with humor, heart and hope, showing characters navigating emotionally intense terrain in their search for connection and compassion.

PROGRAM:

COMING OUT WITH THE HELP OF A TIME MACHINE



Father-Son in "Coming Out...". Photo / Naman Gupta

Dir/Writ: Naman Gupta | USA | Eng | Eng Subs | Short | 15m |

New York Premiere | Comedy, Drama, LGBTQIA, Science Fiction

When coming out to his traditional Indian parents, Sid uses his time machine to reset the day in an attempt to make sure everything goes perfectly.

'Coming Out With The Help Of A Time Machine' is a story of family dynamics and acceptance, with strong LGBTQ+ and heartfelt sci-fi themes. Sid plans to come out to his conservative, community-oriented parents at a local diner. If anything goes wrong, Sid could lose the support of the people who matter to him most. Luckily, he has the power of time travel on his side and he will do anything in his power to emerge from this encounter unscathed.

DOGFRIEND (Hundefreund)

Premiered at the BFI (British Film Institute) Flare Film Festival in March 2022.

Prod/Writ: Sailesh Naidu | Dir: Maissa Lihedheb | Germany | German w/English subs | Short | 18m | Comedy, Drama, LGBTQIA, Romance, Thriller



Naman Gupta, Director - "Coming Out...".

Photo / Naman Gupta



Maissa with Lamin Leroy.

Photo / Malcolm Louis Reiss

The co-producers of the film Maissa Lihedheb, Lamin Leroy Gibba, and Sailesh Naidu developed the idea together for the film 'DogFriend,' wanting to tell a complex and nuanced story, centering a perspective almost never seen on screen. While working with an almost entirely queer and trans BIPOC filmcrew.

DogFriend (Hundefreund) explores themes of love, race, and mental health while subtly (and at times loudly) suggesting that those are intrinsically connected. In the wake of the global Black Lives Matter movement, during which race and systemic oppression are discussed more than ever, conversations about nuanced lived experiences and interpersonal connections are often decentered.

MY DEAR BOY

Dir/Co-Prod/Writ/Edit/: Leaf Lieber | USA | Eng | Short | 15m |

Experimental, LGBTQIA, Romance
Within the first few seconds of meeting each other, two men experience the rise and collapse of their destined relationship through a surreal journey.

WORK

Dir/Writ: April Maxey | USA | Eng | Short | 13m | Women, Drama, LGBTQIA, Romance

Unable to move on from a breakup, Gabriela impulsively drops into an old job, where she unexpectedly runs into a friend from her past.

VALENTINE

Dir: Beck Kitsis & Chris McNabb | USA | Eng | Short | 10m | New York, Women, Drama, LGBTQIA, Romance

With gender and identity in flux, Corey and Mia struggle to redefine their relationship.

INNER WOUND REAL

International Premiere
Dir: Carrie Hawks | USA | Eng | Short | 15m | Animation, Experimental, Women, Documentary, LGBTQIA, Black & African American Diaspora Stories

'Inner Wound Real' relays the story of three BIPOC folks who self-injure, then find new ways to cope.

F^CK ' M R!GHT B@CK

New York Premiere
DIR/Co-Writ/Co-Prod: Harris Doran | USA | Short | Eng | 12m | Comedy, LGBTQIA, Music

To avoid being fired after having accidentally taken drugs, a queer Black rapper must outwit his boss at his day job.

(Mabel Pais writes on Social Issues, Health & Wellness, The Arts and Entertainment, Cuisine and Spirituality)

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Wash your hair the right way to avoid damage

Healthy hair is a result of following the proper hair care rituals. From preparing your hair to applying conditioner after the wash, each step matters. Lathering up your hair roughly or drying your hair too quickly can leave you with dull hair. Bhavya Sharma, beauty expert at UrbanClap.com, and Ragini Bharatram, founder, Beauty Source, show you the right way to wash hair:

Prepare your hair

Oil your hair two to three hours beforehand. An oil massage opens pores and enables better absorption of oil nutrients. Oil your hair from roots to tips and don't massage too hard. You can use coconut, mustard or olive oil and even a combination for your pre-shampooing routine.

Rinse gently

Start by rinsing your hair with lukewarm water. This will remove extra oil from hair and scalp and wash off dry skin on the scalp. It will further help open the cuticles and soften the hair. When rinsing, keep in mind to not start rubbing hair immediately but wait for your hair to be soaking wet.

Shampoo your hair

Choosing the right shampoo is important if you want your hair's natural shine and moisture to stay intact. For dry and damaged hair, it's best to opt for sulfate and paraben-free shampoo. Whereas for thin hair, go for a volumising shampoo. In any case, avoid shampoo with synthetic ingredients so that your hair doesn't get damaged. Don't rinse off the shampoo with warm water.

Apply conditioner

Hair conditioner is applied after you have rinsed out the shampoo completely. It helps in retaining moisture and binding hair cuticles. Apply it evenly along the length of



hair (but not the scalp). Leave it on for a minute or so and then rinse it off with cold water.

Other tips to keep in mind:

- Wash your hair with lukewarm water as hot water can damage your hair.
- Apply a conditioning mask once a week -- a hair mask can offer deeper hydration and repair, leaving hair lush and shiny.
- Take a small amount of

shampoo and work it up to lather. Start from the scalp and gently move on to the body straight down to the tip.

- Let your hair dry gradually. The best way is to take a towel and wrap it around your head and soak all the extra water.
- Understand your hair type. Go to a professional if need be and find out if you have a combination scalp, an oily one or the one that is prone to dryness.

FOOD

Lauki Kofta

Bottle gourd, known as lauki (ghiya) in Hindi and Dudhi in Gujarati, is generally not a popular vegetable in every household but it makes one of the best Indian curries – Lauki Kofta Curry in which deep-fried koftas (round shaped deep fried spicy dumplings) made of grated bottle gourd, gram flour, rice flour and ginger-garlic paste are cooked in spicy gravy of tomato and cashew nuts.

Ingredients

2 Cups Lauki, grated, 1 tsp Salt, 1 tsp Red Chilli Powder, 1/2 Cup Besan, Tamarind,

1 1/2 Cups Onion, finely chopped, 1 tsp Salt, 1 tsp Turmeric Powder, 1 tsp Red Chilli Powder, 2 tsp Coriander Powder, Tbsp Lauki Water, 5 Nos Tomato, pureed, 2 Tbsp Coriander Leaves, 2 Cups Water

Method

- Grate Lauki and squeeze out the excess water and keep that water in a separate bowl to use in gravy. Now keep the grated Lauki in a deep bowl.
- Add salt, red chilli powder and besan to it. Mix the ingredients well. If it is watery then add little more besan for a thick consistency of the mixture.
- Apply oil on your palms and make flat ball to stuff 1 piece of tamarind in each ball.
- Cover the stuffing properly and make round shaped ball. Repeat this process with rest of the balls.
- Now deep fry the balls on medium heat till golden brown and crisp. Heat oil in a heavy bottomed pan and add the chopped onion to it. Stir fry until onion is well cooked.
- Now add salt and turmeric powder. Stir well and cover the saucepan with a lid for 4-5 minutes. Keep checking the mixture to avoid overcooking.
- Now add red chilli powder and coriander powder. Mix well adding the Lauki water. Again cover the saucepan and cook further for few minutes. Then pour the tomato puree along with coriander leaves and stir fry for 5 minutes.
- Add fresh water and bring it to boil on medium heat. Stir in between occasionally. Add the fried koftas to the gravy and cook for few more minutes.
- Turn off the flame and transfer the Lauki kofta curry in a serving dish. Garnish with coriander leaves.



Get rid of dark circles and puffy eyes

Cucumber

First, grate a cucumber, and make potlis by placing it in a cotton gauze cloth. Let the potlis sit in the fridge for 30 minutes. You can place them on top of your eyes for 10 minutes and then wash them with water. This will not only relax your tired eyes but also lighten the under-eye skin.

Green tea bags

Tired of waking up to puffy eyes? Along with taking a good night's sleep, carry out this hack. Wet two tea bags and place them in the refrigerator for 20 minutes. Place the chilled tea bags on your eyes for 10-15 minutes. Now, wash

your face. The nutritionist explains that the goodness of caffeine and antioxidants in the green tea bags assist in lightening dark circles and reducing under-eye puffiness.

Potato

Our mothers swear by this easy peasy hack for keeping dark circle problems at bay. "Cut thick potato slices and place them over your dark circles for about 10-15 minutes," the expert instructs. Potato is loaded with starch which assists with lightening dark circles.

Tomato juice

Squeeze a tomato and take out its juice. Tap it onto the dark circles with

cotton. Rinse off your eyes after 10 minutes. The health expert also suggests adding a few drops of lemon to the tomato juice as according to her "Lycopene in tomato combined with Vitamin C in lemon helps lighten the dark circles under the eyes."

Almond oil

Last but not the least, almond oil will provide you with the right amount of moisturizer. Take a small amount of almond oil and massage the skin under and around your eyes. The almond oil massage will not only increase blood circulation but will also keep the delicate skin under your eyes smooth.

Source: News18



Probiotics are inefficient in improving poor vaginal health: Study

The likelihood of pregnancy in IVF can be affected by many factors, including the type of bacteria that naturally colonize the reproductive tract. "Good" bacteria in the form of probiotics are of increasing interest in treating women with vaginal microbiota imbalances.

However, a new study from The ReproHealth Research Consortium Zealand University Hospital suggests that probiotics do not improve unhealthy vaginal flora when administered vaginally in a daily capsule to patients for 10 days before fertility treatment. No significant difference was observed between these women and those taking a placebo.

However, more than a third (34%) of all women who took part in the trial showed an improvement between a month to three months later, regardless of whether they took a probiotic or not.

On this basis, the authors suggest that it may be worthwhile to postpone fertility treatment among patients with an 'unfavourable' vaginal microbiome until a normal balance is achieved.

Principal investigator Ida Engberg Jepsen from The Fertility Clinic at Zealand University Hospital, Denmark, will present the findings today at the 38th Annual Meeting of ESHRE. She said that the 'spontaneous' improvement rate observed among patients may provide grounds for a change in approach towards IVF timing.

She added: 'The study indicates that administering vaginal lactobacilli probiotics may not improve a suboptimal vaginal microbiome.'

'However, a spontaneous improvement rate over a period of one to three months may provide the basis for an alternative therapeutic approach. The strategy would involve postponing fertility treatment until spontaneous improvement occurs, but further research is needed. The specific vaginal probiotic tested in this study had no effect on the favourability of the vaginal microbiome before IVF. But probiotics, in general, should not yet be discounted.'

Research has shown that pregnancy and live birth rates are higher among women whose vaginal microbiota is dominated by lactobacillus, a genus of lactic-acid-producing bacteria. Conversely, those with an imbalance - or dysbiosis - where the lactobacillus



concentration is too low may have a lesser chance of an embryo implanting in the uterus.

The study was carried out at a university fertility clinic between April 2019 and February 2021. A total of 74 women referred for IVF treatment were recruited. All had an abnormal lactobacillus profile which varied from low to medium quality.

The women were randomly assigned either to receive vaginal probiotic capsules (n=38) or a placebo (n=36). Samples were taken to determine the effect on the vaginal microbiome following the 10-day course of probiotics, and again in the subsequent menstrual cycle (on cycle day 21 to 25). Improvement in the vaginal microbiome was defined as a shift in receptivity profile from low to medium; low to high; and from medium to high.

Results showed that the vaginal microbiome improved by 40% in the placebo group and by 29% in those taking the lactobacillus probiotic. This did not represent a significant difference. Similar outcomes were observed in the menstrual cycle after the intervention.

The authors advise that only two strains of lactobacilli were contained in the probiotic samples. In addition, they say the broad categorisation of the vaginal microbiome profile may not capture 'more subtle changes' that could affect fertility.

Source: ANI



Monkeypox symptoms in UK patients differ from previous outbreaks: Lancet study

Symptoms of monkeypox patients in the UK differ from those observed in previous outbreaks elsewhere in the world, according to a study published in The Lancet Infectious Diseases journal.

The researchers looked at 54 patients who attended sexual health clinics in London, UK and were diagnosed with monkeypox during a 12-day period in May this year.

The finding suggests that patients in this group had a higher prevalence of skin lesions in the genital and anal area and lower prevalence of tiredness and fever than in cases from previously studied outbreaks of monkeypox.

Based on these findings, the researchers suggest current case definitions for 'probable cases' of monkeypox should be reviewed to help identify cases.

They also predict that the high prevalence of genital skin lesions in patients and the high rate of co-occurring sexually transmitted infections means that sexual health clinics are likely to see additional monkeypox cases in the future.

The researchers call for additional resources to support services in managing this condition.

"Currently, the UK and several other countries are seeing a rapid increase in monkeypox cases among individuals attending sexual health clinics, with no apparent links to countries where the disease is endemic," said Nicolo Girometti, from the Chelsea & Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

"Monkeypox is a novel diagnosis within the sexual health setting and our study, the first to publish on cases from this UK outbreak, will support future case finding and clinical care," Girometti said.

The researchers collected data from monkeypox patients at four sexual health centres in London, UK.

Confirmed cases were defined as individuals with laboratory-confirmed infection using a RT-PCR test.

They recorded data about the patient's travel history, sexual history, and clinical symptoms.

Source: PTI

Egg yolk is way healthier when compared to egg white: Expert

The egg is consumed across the world in myriad ways — from boiled to sunny side up and even as a gravy. But, many people avoid having the yolk, the yellow part, thinking it is fattening, contains cholesterol, and hence, can affect heart health. But is it true?

According to dietitian Mac Singh, egg yolks are extremely nutritious. "An egg yolk is way healthier when compared to egg white. Egg yolks, besides having a relatively good amount of protein, also contain heart-healthy unsaturated fat, including omega-3 fats," he wrote on Instagram.

He added that egg yolks are also enriched with many good-for-you nutrients, such as riboflavin (needed for growth and overall good health), vitamin D (extremely important for maintaining healthy bones), and vitamin B-12 (which plays a vital role in helping your body produce red blood cells). "Whereas, egg whites do have a considerable amount of protein but are low in everything else," he mentioned.

How many egg yolks should you eat?



(Photo source: Pixabay)

To make sure the cholesterol present in the yolk does not affect your heart, a healthy individual (with no cardiac disease) can have two egg yolks a day. "A person suffering from any cardiac disease can consume 1 egg yolk a day," he suggested. Source: The Indian Express

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DR. SATISH AND GITANJLI ANAND



DR. SATISH ANAND
Former Chairman, Board of Trustees, AAPI National
E-Mail: sanandmd@gmail.com

GITANJLI ANAND
Former President, India Association of Long Island (IALI)
E-mail: gitanjlianand@gmail.com



Personal data of 1 billion Chinese people up for sale on Dark Web

In what could be the biggest-ever data breach, sensitive personal information about more than a billion people has been leaked from a government agency, possibly from China, and put up for sale on Dark Web for 10 Bitcoins.

Changpeng Zhao, CEO of cryptocurrency exchange Binance, tweeted that their threat intelligence detected 1 billion resident records for sale on the Dark Web. "It includes name, address, national ID, mobile, police and medical records from one Asian country. Likely due to a bug in an ElasticSearch deployment by a government agency," Zhao claimed in his tweet.

"This has an impact on hacker detection/prevention measures, mobile numbers used for account takeovers, etc. It is important for all platforms to enhance their security measures in this area," he further posted.

Binance has already stepped up verifications for users potentially affected, Zhao said.

Media reports claimed that this leaked data may belong to Chinese citizens as a user on an underground hacking forum claimed to be selling a 23TB database for 10 Bitcoins of billions of Chinese citizens.

The information may have been leaked from the Shanghai National Police (SHGA) database, although the Chinese government was yet to react to this.

Tesla cars can now scan for potholes to avoid damage

Electric vehicle company Tesla has confirmed that its vehicles can now scan for rough roads, like potholes, to help avoid them damaging the vehicles by adjusting the suspension.

In a new 2022.20 software update, the automaker wrote about a new feature of the "Tesla Adaptive Suspension" system, reports the auto-tech website Electrek.

"Tesla Adaptive Suspension will now adjust ride height for an upcoming rough road section. This adjustment may occur at various locations, subject to availability, as the vehicle downloads rough road map data generated by Tesla vehicles," the company was quoted as saying.

This is the first confirmation of the Tesla vehicle fleet scanning the roads to evaluate its conditions.

For now, it is not about Autopilot, or Full Self-Driving (FSD) Beta, navigating around those "rough road sections", but Tesla adapting the suspension for those conditions, the report said.

This feature is only going to be available in Tesla vehicles with adaptive suspension, like the new Model S and Model X Back in 2020, CEO Elon Musk said that Tesla Autopilot is eventually going to detect potholes and make mini-maps to remember them and avoid them.

However, currently, Tesla Autopilot is not quite there yet, but it can be now seen as the first confirmation that Tesla's fleet of vehicles is looking for them or more "rough road sections" in general.

NASA is developing swimming robots to look for alien life

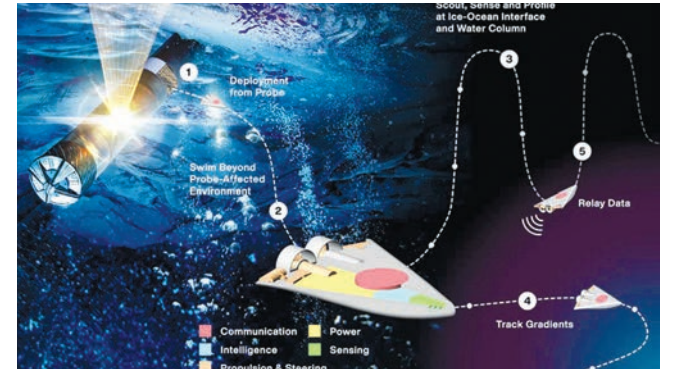
Some day in the future, a swarm of cellphone-size robots could swim through the water beneath the kilometres-thick icy shell of Jupiter's moon Europa or Saturn's moon Enceladus, looking for alien life. These robots could be packed within narrow ice-melting probes that would tunnel through the frozen crust to release the tiny robots underwater, which can then swim far and deep to learn about the new worlds.

Or at least, that is the vision of Ethan Schaler, a robotics mechanical engineer at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Southern California. Schaler's Sensing With Independent Micro-Swimmers (SWIM) concept was recently awarded \$600,000 in Phase II funding from the NASA Innovative Advanced Concepts (NIAC) program. Schaler and his team will use the funding to make and test 3D-printed prototypes over the next two years.

SWIM's early-stage concept envisions wedge-shaped robots, each about 12 centimetres long and 60 to 75 cubic centimetres in volume. They are designed so that about four dozen of them could fit in a cryobot (ice-penetrating probe) 25 centimetres in diameter, taking up just 15 per cent of the science payload volume. This would leave more room for more powerful but less mobile science instruments that could gather data through stationary measurements of the ocean.

Each robot would have its own propulsion system, onboard computer, and ultrasound communications system, along with sensors for temperature, salinity, acidity and pressure. Phase II of the study will also add chemical sensors to monitor for biomarkers.

NASA's Europa Clipper mission, planned for a 2024 launch, will do multiple flybys of Jupiter's moon to gather detailed data with a large suite of instruments when it arrives there in 2030. Cryobot concepts to investigate such ocean worlds are being developed through NASA's Scientific Exploration Subsurface Access Mechanism for Europa (SESAME) program, as well as through other NASA technology development programs.



Concept of operations for the small robots.
(Image credit: NASA/JPL)

The cryobot that deploys the swimming robots would be connected to the surface-based lander through a communication tether. The surface-based lander, in turn, would be the point of contact with mission controllers on Earth. This tethered approach means that the cryobot would probably be unable to venture much beyond the point where ice meets the ocean.

"What if, after all those years it took to get into an ocean, you come through the ice shell in the wrong place? What if there's signs of life over there but not where you entered the ocean? By bringing these swarms of robots with us, we'd be able to look 'over there' to explore much more of our environment than a single cryobot would allow," said SWIM team scientist Samuel Howell of JPL, in a press statement. Howell compares the swimming robots to NASA's Ingenuity Mars Helicopter, the Perseverance rover's airborne companion on Mars. The helicopter extends the reach of the rover and sends images back, helping the rover understand how to explore its environment. In this case, the multiple swimming robots can be thought of as multiple helicopters exploring areas around the cryobot to send back data. *Source: The Indian Express*

Apple to add 'lockdown' mode on iPhones, iPads, Macs against spyware

Apple said it will roll out a "lockdown" option for iPhones, iPads and Mac computers intended to protect against spyware unleashed by state-sponsored hackers — although enabling that protection will also make these devices less useful.

The safeguard announced Wednesday, July 6, is a tacit acknowledgement that not even Apple — the world's most valuable company — has been able to adequately shield the iPhone and its other products against intrusions from state-backed hackers and commercial spyware. Governments have used these tools to violate the privacy of journalists, political dissidents and human rights activists.

The new feature, called "lockdown mode", will initially be offered as a test version so that security researchers can help Apple identify any bugs or weaknesses. Apple usually releases its major updates to its device operating systems in late September.

While only a handful of countries appear to have the resources to develop in-house mobile phone hacking tools, private companies like Israel's NSO Group have been selling phone hacking software to government agencies around the world for years.

The growing hacker-for-hire problem prompted Apple to file a federal lawsuit late last year against NSO Group for breaking into iPhones and other Apple products. In its complaint, Apple accused NSO Group employees of being "amoral 21st century mercenaries who have created highly sophisticated cyber-surveillance machinery that invites routine and flagrant abuse." NSO, which has been blacklisted by the US Commerce Department, has denied any wrongdoing and said its



products have been used to thwart child abusers and terrorists.

Unlike the security features that Apple builds into most of its software, the company's lockdown feature is meant to serve as an emergency button that Apple expects will only be needed by a small number of its users.

The lockdown measure is considered a last resort for people targeted by spyware, since activating lockdown will disable many popular features. That includes sending attachments and links in texts, as well as the ability to receive FaceTime calls from new numbers. Web browsing will also be limited. *Source: AP*

VIRGIN GALACTIC PARTNERS WITH BOEING AURORA TO BUILD MOTHERSHIPS

Virgin Galactic announced Wednesday that it is partnering with a Boeing subsidiary to manufacture the next generation of the twin-fuselage aircraft used to carry aloft the space tourism company's rocket ship.

Aurora Flight Sciences will build two of the special carrier planes at its facilities in Mississippi and West Virginia. Final assembly still will take place at Virgin Galactic's facility in Mojave, California, with the first mothership produced under the contract expected to enter service in 2025. Each of the aircraft will be designed to fly up to 200 launches per year. Virgin Galactic officials said that outsourcing the work will provide access to labor, minimize supply chain disruptions and lead to faster production times. The company has repeatedly pushed back the timeline for launching paying customers, with commercial service now expected in 2023.

Virgin Galactic CEO Michael Colglazier said the next-generation motherships will be integral to scaling up the company's operations.

"They will be faster to produce, easier to maintain and will allow us to fly substantially more missions each year," he said in a statement. "Supported by the scale and strength of Boeing, Aurora is the ideal manufacturing partner for us."

SRI LANKA'S CRISIS RINGS ALARM FOR OTHER TROUBLED ECONOMIES

Sri Lanka is desperate for help with weathering its worst crisis in recent memory. Its schools are closed for lack of fuel to get kids and teachers to classrooms. Its effort to arrange a bailout from the International Monetary Fund has been hindered by the severity of its financial crisis, its prime minister says. But it's not the only economy that's in serious trouble as prices of food, fuel and other staples have soared with the war in Ukraine. Alarm bells are ringing for many economies around the world, from Laos and Pakistan to Venezuela and Guinea.

Some 1.6 billion people in 94 countries face at least one dimension of the crisis in food, energy and financial systems, and about 1.2 billion of them live in "perfect-storm" countries, severely vulnerable to a cost-of-living crisis plus other longer-term strains, according to a report last month by the Global Crisis Response Group of the United Nations Secretary-General.

The exact causes for their woes vary, but all share rising risks from surging costs for food and fuel, driven higher by Russia's war on Ukraine, which hit just as disruptions to tourism and other business activity from the coronavirus pandemic were fading. As a result, the World Bank estimates that per capita incomes in developing economies will be 5% below pre-pandemic levels this year.

SpiceJet going through turbulent phase, share slumps over 40 percent in 2022

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Indian airline company SpiceJet is going through a highly turbulent phase in recent times on account of several glitches and a non-adherence to mandated guidelines in regards to the training of some pilots.

The share price of the airline slumped around 42-43 per cent so far in 2022. On Wednesday, July 6, it closed at Rs 39, as against Rs 68 at the start of the year 2022.

Following is a sequence of events which attracted negative press for the airline.

It all started in April 2022 when the aviation watchdog the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) had restrained 90 pilots of the airline from operating Boeing 737 Max aircraft, after finding they were not properly trained.

Those pilots were trained on a faulty simulator, and the aviation regulator asked the airline to retrain the pilots, besides slapping a fine of Rs 10 lakh.

In early May, 11 passengers on board its flight from Mumbai to Durgapur in West Bengal were injured in severe turbulence and were hospitalised. Two of them were put into intensive care units (ICU). The airline had then maintained that the seat belt sign was on when the aircraft encountered turbulence and several announcements for the same were also made.

Post the incident, the DGCA immediately ordered a probe and a team was formed to investigate and submit a report at the earliest. A preliminary report by the regulator DGCA said the pilots were in "autopilot mode" when the aircraft faced turbulence.

In the later part of May, SpiceJet systems had faced an attempted ransomware attack that impacted and slowed down morning flight departures, while several passengers had complained about the poor services.

On May 28, the pilots on a SpiceJet flight from Mumbai to Gorakhpur decided to fly back to Mumbai after a windshield crack was observed mid-air.

The incident which grabbed much of the eyeballs was when a Delhi-bound SpiceJet aircraft made an emergency landing at Patna airport on June 19, after there were reports of a technical glitch which ignited fire on the plane.

On the same day itself, a Jabalpur-bound SpiceJet flight landed back at the Delhi Airport after it failed to regain the cabin pressure differential even after attaining a height of 6,000 feet. When the going gets tough, the tough get going.



Again on July 2, a Jabalpur-bound SpiceJet flight returned to the Delhi airport after passengers detected smoke in the plane.

On Tuesday i.e. July 5, a Dubai-bound SpiceJet flight from Delhi with more than 150 passengers was diverted to Karachi in Pakistan as the fuel indicator started malfunctioning.

Upon having noted so many incidents revolving the airline, DGCA has issued a show cause notice to SpiceJet over failure to establish safe, efficient and reliable air services.

"The reported incidents on aircraft operated by Spicejet Ltd. from April 1, 2022, till date have been reviewed and it has been observed that on a number of occasions, the aircraft either turned back to its originating station or continued landing to the destination with degraded safety margins," DGCA's show cause notice reads.

Union Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Wednesday showed his concerns over recent incidents related to SpiceJet and said, "Passenger safety is paramount. Even the smallest error hindering safety will be thoroughly investigated and course-corrected."

Facing the showcause notice, SpiceJet Chairman and Managing Director Ajay Singh said that they are running "a safe airline for the past 15 years" and that "one or two incidents being highlighted in media doesn't mean any airline is unsafe".

Singh told ANI that the kind of incidents being talked about are "trivial and happen on a daily basis in airlines". On an average, he said, 30 such incidents happen in airlines every day.

Source: ANI

Euro plunges to two-decade low vs dollar as economic fears mount

LONDON (TIP)

The euro sank to a two-decade low versus the dollar on Tuesday as another surge in natural gas prices reignited worries about the health of the euro zone economy and data showed euro zone business growth slowed sharply in June.

The euro tumbled 0.9% against the dollar to \$1.0325, its weakest since December 2002. Versus the Swiss franc, it dropped 0.7% to 0.9941 francs, its lowest since 2015.

"It will continue to be very difficult for the euro to rally in any meaningful way with the energy picture worsening and risks to economic growth increasing notably," said Derek Halpenny, an analyst at MUFG.

Survey data showed business growth across the euro zone slowed further last month and forward-looking indicators



suggested the region could slip into decline this quarter as the cost of living crisis keeps consumers wary.

The dollar index gained 0.8% to 105.98, a new two-decade high for the currency.

Australia's central bank became the latest to extend its interest rate tightening cycle, hiking by a second

straight 50 basis points, although the Aussie dollar fell 0.8% as investors interpreted the bank's accompanying messaging to be more dovish than expected.

Offering brief respite to nervous markets was a report that U.S. President Joe Biden was leaning towards a decision on easing tariffs on goods from China as well as news Chinese Vice Premier Liu He had spoken to U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen.

A survey showing China's services activity grew at the fastest pace in almost a year also helped sentiment.

But as European trading picked up, the Euro STOXX reversed course and was last down 0.43% while Germany's DAX fell 0.6%. The FTSE 100 dropped 1.05%.

In Asia, MSCI's gauge of Asia Pacific stocks outside Japan rose 0.17%.

Source: Reuters

Shree Ganeshaya Namah



VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA

Nastur Bejan Daruwalla is available for astrological consultations. He can be reached at info@bejandaruwalla.com and on phone **+91-9638770377 www.bejandaruwalla.com**

The Indian Panorama brings you Weekly and Birthday Horoscope by Nastur Bejan Daruwalla

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - JULY 11 TO JULY 17, 2022



Aries

Ganesha says, you could decide to practice an artistic skill this week that is right for you. In the last three days of this week, you'll be terrified by anything from your background and may have a sense of paranoia. This week is ideal for beginning a professional life in the business world. It may be a good week for doctors, pharmacists, and other medical professionals. On the emotional aspect, you could run across your potential partner or makeup with your fiancé if you have one. You can get mild belly discomfort or discomfort. You may do a short jog or strolling every day this week to keep yourself energized.

partners that can help you hold entryways. You'll be enveloped with emotional subtext this week. You will be respected by your partner for the individual you become. Try to do something special for your mate. The moment is ideal for investing in genuine properties. You'll have to make some unpleasant selections but rely in your wisdom and logic. Your attitude toward your wellness will be more comfortable. You can immediately begin adhering to a strict eating regimen. You are a person who is concerned about your health yet finds it difficult to stick to health routine but this week, you will be all well.

comments offensive, but you can discover a solution to make matters good. On the business level, you could get all the necessary thresholds soon, and you might be capable to preserve the amount of income you need at the end of the week. You might have to go to social events as a component of your employment. Your partner will find it difficult to handle your irritation this week in terms of your love relationship. This week, it can be challenging to get your partner to understand how you experience. Your marriage won't be fun this week; chat to your spouse and come up with a brilliant plan. In terms of health, your partner's well-being may be a source of anxiety this week.



Taurus

You'll have a great week and be comfortable. You could experience tiredness and need more relaxation since you may not have had sufficient slumber this week. Avoid long-term obligations and alternatively, make an effort to invest quality time with your great friendships. The family will rejoice when the news of the ancestor-to-ancestor transmission of wealth is announced. This week, learn the distinctions between the decades to better cope with challenges with your children. It will be a great week for graduates who are beginning their professions on the commercial level. There will be several new options for pupils. In regards of your wellness, you could feel sluggish and worn out from your work this week. In your companionship, this week will be fantastic.



Leo

It will be easier to get through the week if you let your intellectual energies stream in the right direction. Avoid letting exhaustion spoil your week. Focus on the immediate area in front of you. Your private and business relationships will no longer mesh perfectly. You will ultimately find equilibrium if you work to synchronize the two again. You and your companion will recognize your successes this week. It is advised that husbands and wives only participate in those pursuits that merit significant commitment. You will experience big changes in your work life in the latter half of the week. You'll need to implement fresh methods in response to these updates. In the latter half of the week, your income will fluctuate, but ultimately, it will normalize.



Scorpio

Your desire to serve everyone will make you happy and satisfied this week. Beginning in the week, you can have a monetary catastrophe that lowers your emotions. Relatives are prone to disagree financially. You should keep a record of every monetary action you make. You'll be enabled to collaborate on significant real estate transactions and organize massive gatherings of people for recreational activities. Your urge to enjoy leisure together, away from everybody, will grow as you realize how fleeting time is. You will gain from doing it if you do. Your relationship with your spouse may be challenging, so you should try to prevent significant disagreements that last for an extended period of time.



Gemini

You will gain from leisure activities this week. The urge to lead a guarded living and the ongoing worry about getting wounded will be there during the whole week. You may be having a very stressful time in the latter half of the week due to the effect of the moon. This week, you might talk to your relatives and solicit their advice. A children's health might be a concern when it relates to anxiety. There is a lack of love in the romance arena this week. This week, a family member could try to ruin your partnership, but it will be difficult to end your common devotion. You will receive recognition this week for some of your outstanding accomplishments on the commercial level. Opening a stocks or foreign transformation business this week is not advised.



Virgo

From your perspective of vision, matters have been somewhat cloudy lately, but this week, everyone will emerge perfectly obvious. This week, they'll acquire more understanding, and you'll be prepared to find the answers. You will receive a tremendous amount of power from Almighty's energies. Due to misunderstandings of the discourse, there could be some issues at family this week, but everything will steadily get better. Perhaps you're going too rapidly in matters of love. You are gaining perspective of your own individuality while you handle relationships. This week, you'll give it more thought, and you'll also tell your husband about it. Your business will generate amazing profits this week. Your well-being is not something you need to be worried about. However, the moon's transition suggests that you may be a bit worried in the latter half of the week.



Sagittarius

This week, individuals will be attracted to you owing of your charisma. The sector will advance by the end of the week. You'll become a regular at social gatherings because to your smart nature. There is a mystical aspect to your unfailing devotion. When required, it will be appreciated if you can move quickly. Although this week is ideal for spending time with a friend, you should avoid alcohol consumption. You'll have a nice week in terms of your personal relationship; you and your partner will bond through some enjoyable times. For people with chronic problems, this week is not a favorable week for their wellbeing, and you should visit a specialist.



Cancer

You'll receive a barrage of appreciation and praises this week. Your witty words will lead others to gravitate toward you. Take advantage of this quality right now to meet new people and find



Libra

You could spend a good amount of your time with your family this week and talk about a range of significant issues. Your family might find your

Capricorn



You may have better connections out with friends and accomplish a lot of wonderful accomplishments. You could stay away from people you think you won't get along with. You might need to stay away from foods rich in calories

CONTD ON PAGE 29

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : JULY 11 TO JULY 17, 2022

BY ASTRO FRIEND CHIRAG - SON OF ASTROLOGER BEJAN DARUWALLA

JULY 11 : Ganesha says today your work is everything, so whatever you think is a new idea, and you'll definitely finish it. People who come into contact with you are profoundly affected by your simplicity and spirit of assistance. You occasionally have a tendency to act in an unconventional manner, and it is necessary to regulate this trait for your benefit. You will have several opportunities to participate in religious and spiritual ceremonies in the upcoming year. Your ability to get along with people well and quickly can broaden your network and social circle.

JULY 12 : Ganesha says you are a very intelligent individual who is knowledgeable in every field. You will rise in the upcoming year like a brilliant star. You have an incredibly bright mind that can quickly solve problems. Although you have outstanding organizational skills, high-paying endeavors might not work out for you. With your blood family, ego conflicts can lead to tension and annoyance for both parties. You are familiar with the pace of the competition since you have unrivalled communication skills, which are crucial right now.

JULY 13 : Ganesha says although your introverted character may limit the number of people you know, your unstoppable thoughts and strong ability to draw conclusions will enable you to manage the direction of your life in a methodical manner. By producing consistently high-quality work, you would also

improve your standards. You need to change the introverted half of yourself that occasionally comes out so that your loved ones won't misunderstand you. Without any hesitation, go ahead and share your feelings in regards to love. Any social service organization could be your connection or associate. This year, you would also independently make some significant decisions.

JULY 14 : Ganesha says today you'll be forced by circumstances to pursue your ideals in your endeavors. At work, you have plenty of chances to demonstrate your abilities, and everyone will be grateful. You'll be forced by circumstances to spend time with your family, and with your electrifying gestures, you'll steal the show. You might win the lottery, which would increase your life's stability. You are a practical person. Playing with obstacles as a child has given you a tough nature that is difficult to subdue. People will respect you for who you naturally are. They usually stick with you.

JULY 15 : Ganesha says today your artistic inclination will produce win-win circumstances everywhere for you. Your religious soul will experience good things in the New Year, yet a small slip-up can annoy you. Your job, with whom you spend the most of your time, will always be your first love and bring you incredible glory, honor, and surprises. You detest bigots and constantly work to shine a light of hope into the

shadows. You now qualify as a seasoned warrior. A friend in need is a friend in deed if you are always willing to lend a hand. You should realize that love is always revealed via actions rather than words, so act quickly before the tides turn in your favor.

JULY 16 : Ganesha says people who are around you and who work with you benefit much from your cooperative and upbeat disposition. Your associates and coworkers attempt to adopt your working style but are unsuccessful in doing so. But the most crucial thing is that you follow all rules and guidelines at work so that no one can ever point out your shortcomings. You would undoubtedly become the focus of attention on the professional front thanks to your unwavering dedication and fierce determination. It would also make it easier for you to advance and get paid more.

JULY 17 : Ganesha says you are a fountain of ability, potential, and intelligence. Nobody will be able to defeat you at work because you are just incomparable and unbeatable. All you need in a source of revenue are keen and refined acumen skills. You can easily overcome all of your obstacles. You will reach the highest position in your profession thanks to your communication style. Serving humanity is one of your favorite genres. Your interest in politics may be sparked by your awareness of societal needs and desire to serve others. While travelling may put some burden on you, it can also be very beneficial.

CONTD FROM PAGE 28

and workout frequently for your wellness. You'll be able to manage your finances. You will have several opportunities to make income this week due of the Venus and constellations' favorable positions. With the complete involvement of the employees and supervisors, business culture will be expedited. A love relationship could be destroyed by overwhelming concerns and notions. There shouldn't be any room for uncertainty in your connection. If you have any real concerns about them, take a seat with them and attempt to come along with a remedy.



Aquarius

Your quick movement this week will resolve your ongoing problem. It would be advantageous if you and your family this week spoke about exchanging and conserving money. Your monetary situation could benefit from their recommendations. Everybody who resides with you could perhaps have issues if you don't maintain your home. Your amorous vitality will be at an all-time peak due of your mate. You'll benefit from spending time with your beloved one. On the commercial level, producers will enjoy a solid week. This week, the enemies of your colleague will be made to account for their transgressions. You will get a persistent hangover or vertigo that will make you feel unwell.



Pisces

It's going to be a great week for your overall development. An optimistic outlook may keep you confident and assist you in reaching your objectives. For some

individuals, traveling might be exhausting and disagreeable, but it can also be advantageous economically. This week is an excellent time to catch up with people you don't see too often.

Authentic, selfless affection is more prone to be seen. You will gain from top company's and colleagues' assistance this week. You'll need to emphasize your children as time goes on as well. This

week is a terrific one to make long-term investments. You may consume unhealthy food all through the week, resulting in abdomen aches.

|| SHREE GANESHAY NAMAH ||



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Guru Purnima

Guru Purnima is a special day for Hindus. A full moon day occurs when the moon is fully visible at night. This day also known as Vyas Purnima, is the birthday of Ved Vyas. There is a law of worship of Guru on this day. The religious gurus of Hinduism are worshiped by their followers. Guru Purnima comes at the beginning of the rainy season. On this day all saints take bath in the Ganges river together.

It is celebrated by Hindus, Jains and Buddhists as a festival in India, Nepal, and Bhutan. This festival is traditionally celebrated by Hindus, Buddhists and Jains to honor and express their gratitude to their chosen spiritual teachers Dharma Guru.

This day is also the birthday of Krishna Dwaipayana Vyas, the author of Mahabharata. He was a Sanskrit scholar and also composed the four Vedas. For this reason, he is also named Ved Vyas. He is called Adiguru and Guru Purnima is also known as Vyasa Purnima in his honor. It is the day when Ved Vyas was born in the Mahabharata period by Sage Parashar, the daughter of a fisherman, Satyavati. Bhaktikal's saint Gheesadas was also born on this day, he was a disciple of Kabirdas.

What is the Guru? It is told by a verse. Which is as follows: -

*Agyan timiraandhashch gyananjan shalaky,
chakshunmeetim tasmai shri guroo nam:*

In a verse for equality between the Guru and the deity, it has been said that the need of devotion is for the deity as it is for the guru as well. Rather it is possible to interview God with the grace of Sadhguru. Nothing is possible in the absence of the Guru's grace.

*Guru Brahma, Guru Vishnu, Guru Devo
Maheshwara |*

*Guru Sakshat Param Brahma, Tasmai Shri Gurave
Namah Guru is Brahma ||*

Guru is Vishnu, Guru is Lord Maheshwara. Guru is verily the supreme reality. Sublime prostrations to Him.

Significance of Guru Purnima

Guru Purnima, otherwise called Vyasa Purnima, is celebrating the birth anniversary of Veda Vyasa, the legendary author of Mahabharata. Full moon day in the month of June-July is the witness of celebrating Guru Purnima. Hindus, Buddhists and Jains are celebrating this day in various forms. As part of our culture, Hindus are honouring Veda Vyasa on that day. Disciples are expressing their love, gratitude and devotion to their teachers. Among Buddhists, disciples are worshipping and honouring Lord Buddha during Guru Purnima day. As per the part of Jain religious custom, people are celebrating Guru Purnima as Treenok Guha Purnima in the name of Ganadhara becoming Treenok Guha. As in the terms of the basics of oldest Hindu mythology, Lord Shiva is denoted as first Guru and he had two disciples Shani and Parashurama. He introduced civilization and religion on earth. That is the story behind the name of Adidev and Adiguru to Lord Shiva.

He provided seven people with Shani and Parasurama and after that, they began to be known as Saptarishis and they distributed knowledge of Shiva to the whole world. Purnima ritual is started by waking up in the early morning and taking a bath. Wearing white or yellow clothes is necessary. After that, praying to Lord Vishnu, Lord Shiva, Guru Brihaspati, Saint Ved Vyas along with our own Guru. On that occasion, students are worshipping the picture of these Gods by setting on a white cloth. Yet, people are using flowers, lamps, naivedya, sandalwood etc to honour Guru. Washing the feet of Guru by chanting the mantra and offering flowers to show their respect. Guru Purnima is considered as auspicious for the person who wants to become saints and give their life to Guru can join Ashram.

The traditional perspective of Guru Purnima is entirely different from the modern view. As per the



Important information

Guru Purnima 2022

Wednesday, 13 July 2022

Purnima Tithi Begins - 04:01 AM on Jul 13, 2022

Purnima Tithi Ends - 00:06 AM on Jul 14, 2022

Did you know : It is the day when Ved Vyas was born in the Mahabharata period by Sage Parashar, the daughter of a fisherman, Satyavati.

traditional Hindu mythology, disciples are worshipping their Guru based on rituals and customs. But today, all the academic institutions' students are celebrating Guru Purnima as Teachers day by thanking their teachers. Devotees are remembering saint Vyasa through some facts. First of all, Vyasa is known as the author of Mahabharata and Bhagavad Gita. He was the legend who wrote eighteen Puranas. Vyasa is represented as the guru of Dattatreya. Yet, he was known as the guru of all gurus.

History of Guru Purnima

Legends say that Ved Vyas structured the four Vedas, composed the epic of the Mahabharata, created the foundation for the many Puranas and the day of Guru Purnima is to honor him.

Some also say that Guru Purnima represents the date on which Lord Shiva as the Adi Guru taught the seven rishis who were the seers of the Vedas.

In some parts, Buddhists celebrate this day as Buddha Purnima too as it is believed that Lord Buddha was said to have delivered his first sermon on this day at Sarnath, reflecting the power of this sacred time.

How to celebrate Guru Purnima

- On this day people worship the gods who are our ultimate teachers in life.
- It has also been seen that people associate importance of Vishnu pooja with Guru Purnima.

- The thousand names of Lord Vishnu also known as Vishnu Sahatranam should be recited on this day.
- The day is celebrated with full vigor and auspiciousness of thanking the lords and the Gurus.

Fasting and food traditions on Guru Purnima

- Many people fast on this occasion. They refrain from eating salt, rice, heavy foods such as non-vegetarian dishes and other meals made of cereals.
- They only eat yogurt and fruit mostly.
- People break their fast after performing puja and other rituals in the evening.
- In most houses a feast of delicious Indian delicacies like poori, choley, halwa and other exuberant sweets are prepared and enjoyed.

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"If Hindus don't maintain Hinduism, who shall save it?"

"If India's own children don't cling to their faith, who shall guard it?"

"Indians alone can save India, and India and Hinduism are one."



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History This Week

July 8 to July 14

"THINGS HAVE NEVER BEEN MORE LIKE THE WAY THEY ARE TODAY IN HISTORY." --- DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

July 8

July 8, 1776 - The first public reading of the Declaration of Independence occurred as Colonel John Nixon read it to an assembled crowd in Philadelphia.

July 8, 1943 - During the Nazi occupation of France, Resistance leader Jean Moulin died following his arrest and subsequent torture by the Gestapo. He had been sent by the Allies into France in 1942 to unite the fledgling Underground movement. In June of 1943, he was arrested in Lyon, tortured for eleven days but betrayed no one. He died aboard a train while being transferred to a concentration camp.



Nelson Rockefeller

Birthday - Nelson Rockefeller (1908-1979) was born in Bar Harbor, Maine. He served as Governor of New York from 1958 to 1973. He became vice-president under Gerald Ford in 1974, serving until January 20, 1977.

July 9

July 9, 1868 - The 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified. The Amendment defined U.S. citizenship and prohibited individual States from abridging the rights of any American citizen without due process and equal protection under the law. The Amendment also barred individuals involved in rebellion against the U.S. from holding public office.

July 10

July 10, 1943 - The Allied invasion of Italy began with an attack on the island of Sicily. The British entry into Syracuse was the first Allied success in Europe. General Dwight D. Eisenhower labeled the

invasion "the first page in the liberation of the European Continent."

July 10, 1973 - The Bahamas gained their independence after 250 years as a British Crown Colony.



Boris Yeltsin

July 10, 1991 - Boris Yeltsin took the oath of office, becoming the first popularly elected president in Russia's thousand-year history.

Birthday - Theologian and founder of Presbyterianism, John Calvin (1509-1564) was born in Noyon, France.



James Whistler

Birthday - American artist James Whistler (1834-1903) was born in Lowell, Mass. He is best remembered for his portrait Whistler's Mother.



Marcel Proust

Birthday - French author Marcel Proust (1871-1922) was born near Paris. "Happiness," he wrote in *The Past Recaptured*, "is beneficial for the body but it is grief that develops the powers of the mind."

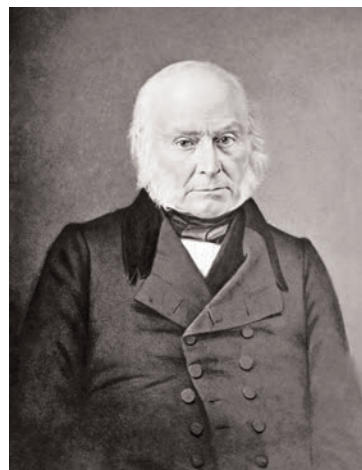
Birthday - Tennis player Arthur Ashe (1943-1993) was



Arthur Ashe

born in Richmond, Virginia. He won a total of 33 titles including the U.S. men's singles championship and U.S. Open in 1968 and the men's singles at Wimbledon in 1975. As a pioneering African American athlete, he fought against racism and stereotyping and was arrested numerous times while protesting. In 1992, he announced he had likely contracted HIV through a transfusion during heart surgery. He then began a \$5 million fundraising effort on behalf of the Arthur Ashe Foundation for the Defeat of AIDS and campaigned for public awareness regarding the dreaded disease. He died from pneumonia in New York, February 6, 1993.

July 11



John Quincy Adams

Birthday - John Quincy Adams (1767-1848) the 6th U.S. President, and son of the 2nd President, John Adams, was born in Braintree, Massachusetts. After serving just one term as President, he served 17 years as a member of Congress. He died in 1848 while in the House of Representatives in the same room in which he had taken the presidential Oath of Office. He was the first president whose father had also

been president.

July 12

July 12, 1943 - During World War II, in the Battle of Kursk, the largest tank battle in history took place outside the small village of Prohorovka, Russia. About nine hundred Russian tanks attacked an equal number of German tanks fighting at close range. When Hitler ordered a cease-fire, 300 German tanks remained strewn over the battlefield.

July 12, 1994 - Germany's Constitutional Court ended the ban on sending German troops to fight outside the country. The ban had been in effect since the end of World War II. The ruling allowed German troops to join in United Nations and NATO peace-keeping missions. On July 14, German military units marched in Bastille Day celebrations in Paris, the first appearance of German troops there since World War II.



Josiah Wedgwood

Birthday - British pottery designer Josiah Wedgwood (1730-1795) was born in Burslem, Staffordshire, England.



Henry David Thoreau

Birthday - American philosopher Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862) was born in Concord, Massachusetts. At Walden Pond he wrote, "I frequently tramped eight or ten miles through the deepest snow to keep an appointment with a beech tree, or a yellow birch, or an old acquaintance among the pines."

July 13

July 13, 1787 - Congress enacted the Northwest Ordinance establishing formal procedures for transforming territories into states. It provided for the eventual establishment of three to five states in the area north of the

Ohio River, to be considered equal with the original 13. The Ordinance included a Bill of Rights that guaranteed freedom of religion, the right to trial by jury, public education and a ban on slavery in the Northwest.

July 14

July 14, 1789 - The fall of the Bastille occurred at the beginning of the French Revolution.

July 14, 1791 - In England, the Birmingham riot occurred on the second anniversary of the fall of the Bastille. Mob rule lasted for three days, targeting controversial scientist and theologian Joseph Priestley's home and laboratory as well as the homes of his friends. Priestley, who had expressed support for the American and French revolutions, fled to London with his family and later moved to America.



Woody Guthrie

Birthday - American folk singer and social activist Woody Guthrie (1912-1967) was born in Okemah, Oklahoma. Best known for *This Land Is Your Land*, *Union Maid*, and *Hard Traveling*.



Gerald R. Ford

Birthday - Gerald R. Ford, the 38th U.S. President was born in Omaha, Nebraska, July 14, 1913 (as Leslie King). In 1973, he was appointed vice president following the resignation of Spiro T. Agnew. He became president on August 9, 1974, following the resignation of Richard M. Nixon. He was the first non-elected vice president and non-elected president of the U.S.

(TIP Bureau compilation)

contd from page 1

Boris Johnson resigns in the face...

Faced with no other choice, he agreed on Thursday, July 7, to stand down as the Conservative Party leader immediately and resign as Prime Minister in October when the party chooses a new leader.

The race to replace Boris Johnson has already begun, after the prime minister quit as Tory leader following a dramatic few days that saw his authority collapse, reports BBC. Tom Tugendhat is the latest MP to throw his hat into the ring, joining Attorney General Suella Braverman and Brexiteer Steve Baker who have shown interest.

Nearly 60 Conservative MPs have quit government roles in recent days at both senior and junior levels, raising doubts about the government's ability to function. Speaking to his newly appointed cabinet on Thursday, Johnson promised he would not use his remaining time in No 10 to make "major changes of direction". A timetable for the Tory leadership race is due to be confirmed next week and the new prime minister is expected to be in position by September.

But unofficially, the contest is already under way. The chair of the foreign affairs committee Tugendhat launched his leadership bid by writing in the Daily Telegraph on Friday, July 8, promising tax cuts and "new energy and ideas" for government. "I have served before - in the military, and now in Parliament. Now I hope to answer the call once again as prime minister," said the former soldier, who has been a prominent critic of Johnson. Attorney General Ms Braverman has already confirmed she will stand, while former Brexit minister Baker said he was "seriously" considering running after being asked by people to do so.

Sajid Javid, the former health secretary, and Transport Secretary Grant Shapps - who both revolted against Johnson - are also considering putting their hats into the ring, the BBC has been told. Others tipped to run include Foreign Secretary Liz Truss, former Chancellor Rishi Sunak and ex-Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt. More declarations are expected in the coming days - but some senior Tories have already said they will not be running, including former Levelling Up Secretary Michael Gove, Deputy Prime Minister Dominic Raab and former Health Secretary Matt Hancock.

Former Chancellor Rishi Sunak and Transport Secretary Grant Shapps are among those tipped to run in the leadership campaign. Brexit minister Jacob Rees-Mogg criticized Sunak on Thursday, saying he was "not a successful chancellor" and "not alert to the inflationary problem". Speaking on Channel 4 News, the Johnson loyalist said the PM had been an "exceptionally good leader" who had been brought down by some "relatively minor missteps that got taken out of all proportion".

Transport minister Robert Courts said Shapps, who he works alongside, would be a "great choice" and also suggested Ben Wallace, the defense secretary. "I think we need someone who's got experience, someone who is able to campaign... someone who's able to deliver," he told BBC Newsnight. The wannabes will fight a popularity contest among Tory MPs in the next few weeks, and should two of them be left at the end of that process, Conservative Party members will get the final say over the summer.

Somewhere between 100,000 and 200,000 people will be charged with selecting the next head of our government on our behalf. It is a safe bet the next prime minister will be a very different character to Boris Johnson. Given the manner and motivations behind his toppling, being seen to ooze integrity and revere truth are qualities all the candidates will aspire to illustrate. But beyond that there will be an intriguing debate about what it means to a Conservative in 2022.

When a new leader assumes office, the political landscape will instantly shift. Meanwhile, Conservative backbench MP and former cabinet minister Andrew Mitchell said: "We need a complete break from the Boris years." Asked about what he

would want in a new leader, he said someone with domestic and international experience and "someone who is patently moral and decent".

MP John Baron said he thought a new leader should focus on the cost of living crisis, levelling up and helping the most vulnerable in society. It is important that "integrity" is at the heart of the government, he told the BBC. Any candidate for the leadership race would need to secure the backing of Tory MPs, with the final two candidates then going to a ballot of Conservative members.

Some Tories are deeply unhappy that Johnson is not quitting as PM immediately, with the former Prime Minister Sir John Major saying it would be "unwise" for him to stay until a replacement is chosen. Conservative MP Justine Greening said it was time for Johnson to go and while he remains in No 10 "it's harder for the party and the country to move on". But Lord Vaizey who formerly served as a minister for David Cameron, said it was "fine" for the PM to continue "to act as caretaker".

Getting rid of a prime minister can lead to "dissatisfaction" with party members and voters who elected them, he told Newsnight. The Labour Party has also threatened to try and unseat the PM immediately through a vote of no confidence, although this would need considerable support among Conservatives to succeed. According to Downing Street, Johnson told ministers at a cabinet meeting on Thursday that he would not seek to implement "major changes of direction" or take "major fiscal decisions" while a caretaker PM.

In his resignation speech outside No 10 on Thursday, Johnson said he had tried to stay on to deliver on his "incredible mandate" from the 2019 election. He cited various achievements including Brexit and the Covid vaccine programme. He said his departure was a result of the "herd instinct" at Westminster and it would be "painful" to not deliver on "so many ideas and projects".

Johnson also spoke to President Zelensky of Ukraine, reassuring him that his replacement would remain as committed to the war-torn country as he was.

Brittney Griner Pleads Guilty to Drug...

"She pleaded guilty, stressing that she was carrying substances prohibited in Russia unintentionally, because she was packing in a hurry," Mr. Boikov said.

If Ms. Griner is convicted, she could face up to 10 years in a Russian penal colony. Her guilty plea came hours after a top Russian diplomat lashed out at the Biden administration for trying to "foment hype" around her case. The Russian diplomat, Sergei A. Ryabkov, the deputy foreign minister, said that the publicity around the case was not helping Ms. Griner,

who American officials say is essentially a hostage taken by President Vladimir V. Putin in the run-up to the war in Ukraine. Mr. Ryabkov indicated that Moscow would be prepared to negotiate her fate, but only after the court reached a verdict on the drug charges that were brought against her.

"We have a long-established form of discussing these matters," Mr. Ryabkov told reporters on Thursday in Moscow, according to the Interfax news agency. "The American side's attempts to foment hype and make noise in the public environment are understandable, but they don't help to practically resolve issues." After her trial began last week, Ms. Griner sent a handwritten letter to Mr. Biden asking him not to "forget about" her and other American detainees overseas. Mr. Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris spoke on Wednesday with Ms. Griner's wife, Cherelle Griner, according to a statement released by the White House.

During the call, the statement said, the president read a draft of a letter that he planned to send to Brittney Griner. He also said that his administration was pursuing "every avenue to bring Brittney home." Speaking outside the courtroom on Thursday, Elizabeth Rood, the chargé d'affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, said she had spoken to Ms. Griner

and she had been able to read the president's letter. "She said that she's eating well, she's able to read books, and under the circumstances, she's doing well," Ms. Rood said, according to a video posted on Twitter by an NPR correspondent. She added: "I would like again to emphasize the commitment of the U.S. government at the very highest level to bring home safely Ms. Griner and all U.S. citizens wrongfully detained."

Cherelle Griner has publicly expressed frustration with Mr. Biden and his administration's efforts to secure her wife's release. In a statement to The New York Times on Wednesday, Cherelle Griner said she was grateful to Mr. Biden and Ms. Harris "for the time they spent with me and for the commitment they expressed to getting B.G. home." The United States government has classified Brittney Griner as "wrongfully detained" and is working to secure her release regardless of the outcome of the trial. While the Kremlin claims it has no involvement in Ms. Griner's case, Russian state media reports have indicated that Moscow may press the United States to free a Russian in American custody - like the convicted arms dealer Viktor Bout - in exchange for her freedom.

Mr. Ryabkov said that until the conclusion of Ms. Griner's case, "there are no formal procedural grounds" to discuss further steps. He hinted, however, that Moscow was interested in negotiating over her fate, claiming that she would be helped by "a serious reading by the American side of the signals that they received from Russia, from Moscow, through specialized channels." He did not specify what those signals were, but insisted that talks on Ms. Griner's fate should take place out of the public eye, according to Russian news reports. (Source: Agencies)

India second largest country of birth...

In Fiscal Year 2021, the USCIS welcomed 8,55,000 new US citizens. In Fiscal Year 2022, the USCIS has welcomed 6,61,500 new US citizens as of June 15 and made significant progress in reducing our naturalization pending queues, the agency said.

The USCIS said it would celebrate Independence Day this year by welcoming more than 6,600 new citizens in more than 140 naturalization ceremonies between July 1 and July 8. The US celebrates its Independence Day on July 4.

According to the US Homeland Security, 34 per cent of naturalizations in FY 2022 Q1 consisted of persons from the top five countries of nationality: Mexico (24,508), India (12,928), the Philippines (11,316), Cuba (10,689), and the Dominican Republic (7,046). During this period, the US welcomed 1,97,148 new citizens.

In FY 2021 Q1, the top five countries of nationality (Mexico, India, Cuba, the Philippines, and China) accounted for 35 per cent of naturalizations, it said. **(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)**

Indian-origin Attorney General Suella...

Her pitch came just hours before Johnson made his resignation speech, in which he said: "I want you to know how sad I am to be giving up the best job in the world. But them's the breaks." Another fellow staunch Brexiteer, Steve Baker, declared on air soon after that he intends to throw his hat in the ring. He is an influential Tory backbencher who served as chair of the European Research Group, in favor of a hard Brexit deal.

But both Braverman and Baker are largely seen as outliers and now with Johnson's formal resignation, the other more serious bids are expected to start pouring in thick and fast.

In a latest YouGov poll of Tory party members in 'The Daily Telegraph', UK Defense Secretary Ben Wallace has emerged as the frontrunner to become the next prime minister. The party's 1922 Committee is responsible for setting the timetable for a Tory leadership contest. To take part in the race, a Tory MP has to be nominated by eight colleagues. If more than two MPs put themselves forward and secure enough nominations to run for leader, a series of secret ballots are held to whittle them down. **(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)**

NADAL DEFIES INJURY TO SETUP WIMBLEDON SEMI-FINAL AGAINST NICK KYRGIOS

Rafael Nadal set the ball rolling early. In the press conference after his win in the fourth round, the Spaniard was asked what he thought about his loss to Taylor Fritz at Indian Wells. His answer, "What I learned about the match against Fritz was zero because I had a stress fracture on my rib... and the pain was terrible."

It showed he would be out set the record straight.

As things turned out, another injury had a huge role to play in the Wimbledon quarterfinal on Wednesday that had a strange vibe to it. However, at the end of the match which was a five-set rollercoaster, we were once again saluting the sheer heart that drives Nadal. Knee, foot, abdomen—the list of injuries seems endless but through it all, he endures; he makes us root for him and he shows us the value of fighting even when the chips seem irreversibly down.

The depth of Nadal's resilience is almost unfathomable and if you needed a reminder of that, the 3-6, 7-5, 3-6, 7-5, 7-6 (4) win was ample evidence.

Now, Fritz is a good player but the question at the start of the match was whether he would be able to handle a charged up Rafa? And for the first 14 minutes of the match, it looked like he couldn't. The American playing his first match on Centre Court and his first Grand Slam quarterfinal, was broken in the first game and Nadal's shots were eliciting 'oohs' and 'aahs' from the crowd.

Fritz slowly found his composure and then in the sixth game of the match, he drew level. Some heavy hitting earned the American three breakpoints but Nadal made it deuce before the 24-year-old closed it out.

And then once again, the depth of Fritz's returns earned him two breakpoints and he needed just one as Nadal committed a double fault. Fritz had not lost a set in the tournament and he was just starting to show why.

An ace helped Fritz win the first set 6-3. He had won five games in a row and Nadal was left looking a little shell-shocked. That can sometimes be a mere invitation for the Spaniard to take things up a gear.

Hardik's all-round heroics power India to 50-run win in first T20I

SOUTHAMPTON (TIP)

Hardik Pandya reigned supreme with one of the finest all-round performances in recent times as India bossed England to emerge winners by 50 runs in the first T20 International here.

The swashbuckling all-rounder led India's aggressive batting display with a blistering 33-ball 51, propelling the visitors to 198 for eight after they opted to bat first.

Hardik then finished with excellent figures of 4/33, destroying England's batting with his full quota of four overs. He became only the fourth player from full member nations to score a fifty and take four wickets in a T20I match.

England's innings ended at 148 in 19.3 overs.

This was Hardik's first T20I half-century, helping India score at a brisk pace in the middle overs after Rohit Sharma (24 off 14 balls), Deepak Hooda (33 off 17) and Suryakumar Yadav (39 off 19) set it up with their enterprising knocks.

Motoring along at 178 for five at the end of 17th over, India failed to finish their innings with a flourish on a belter of a pitch. But that did not matter in the end, despite India spilling a few catches.

Defending 199, India had a dream start as Bhuvneshwar Kumar bowled skipper Jos Buttler with a beautiful inswinger, having tested Jason Roy with four outswingers.

Coming off his fine show with the bat, Hardik delivered with the ball in his very first over not once, but twice, removing Dawid Malan and Liam Livingstone to leave England in a disarray at 29 for three in the fifth over.

Hardik was not done yet as he ended Roy's painstaking stay in the middle when he had the opener caught at third man after a thick edge. He capped off a memorable outing by taking the wicket of Sam Curran.

Earlier, seeking to make up for the lost time after missing the fifth Test against England owing to COVID-19, Rohit got India off to a brisk start.

First up, Rohit charged down the track to smash Sam Curran towards mid-off and while a diving Chris Jordan



Hardik Pandya celebrates with teammates after taking the wicket of England's Jason Roy.

Photo: Reuters

got a hand to it, the ball was hit too hard and all the fielder could do was deflect it to the fence.

Reece Topley strayed down the leg and Rohit whipped it off his pads for his second boundary. That was followed by another four as the India captain played it through point, forcing his English counterpart Jos Buttler to introduce spin as early as the third over.

Unperturbed, Rohit went after Moeen Ali straightaway and collected two boundaries off him by employing the sweep shots on both occasions.

However, the experienced off-spinning all-rounder came back strongly to dismiss the India skipper just when he was beginning to look ominous, with a delivery that drifted away for Rohit to snick it to Buttler.

Coming off his maiden century against Ireland, Deepak Hooda started from where he left off in the previous game at Malahide, smashing Moeen high over long-on for two massive sixes. That he opened his account with a maximum showed the kind of confidence that the man from Rohtak carried into Ageas Bowl.

And even though Moeen enjoyed his second breakthrough in the form of Ishan Kishan, who did not look to be in control of his pull shots, India

continued with their attacking approach. While Hooda started with a six, Suryakumar Yadav began his innings with a four, sweeping Moeen over backward square leg.

The man in form, Hooda continued to deal in boundaries, hitting Topley for three fours in the innings' sixth over as India galloped to 66 for two in the powerplay.

Surya dispatched Tymal Mills over fine leg for a six, and then, comfortably got two fours on the off-side off Matt Parkinson's innocuous leg-spinners.

Amid the flurry of boundaries, India lost Hooda -- a rather soft dismissal -- as he failed to connect to a Jordan delivery that was going down leg.

One big-hitter was replaced by another, as Hardik Pandya joined Suryakumar in the middle to continue the aggression. In no time, Hardik started dealing in boundaries and even though Suryakumar got out, after getting a six and a four off Mills and Jordan respectively, there was no stopping India's charge.

Hardik kept finding the fence with ease and a missed stumping off Parkinson, when the batter was on 37, compounded England's woes. But they did manage to dismiss Hardik after he had got to his fifty. *Source: PTI*

Harmanpreet, Pooja shine as India win series against Sri Lanka

PALLEKELE (TIP)

Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur and Pooja Vastrakar produced solid all-round performances as Indian women cantered to a 39-run victory over a clueless Sri Lanka in the final ODI on Thursday, July 7, to complete a 3-0 rout.

Harmanpreet (75 off 88 balls and 1/21 in 5 overs) and Vastrakar (56 not out off 65 balls, and 2/32) first bailed the team out with a 97-run seventh wicket stand that ensured a decent total of 255 for 9 for the visitors.

The bowlers then executed the plans perfectly to shoot out the hosts for 216 in 47.3 overs with both Harmanpreet and Vastrakar chipping in with crucial breakthroughs.

With this series win, the Indian women clinched their fourth consecutive bilateral series victory against the island nation. The women's side had earlier won ODI series in 2013, 2015, and 2018. Having already sealed a series win, Harmanpreet's unit came into the final game as a confident bunch, something which the Lankans distinctly lacked from the very onset. With nothing to lose, Sri Lankan skipper Chamari Athapaththu won the toss and sent the Indians to bat on a surface that is mostly known to favour teams batting first.

Buoyed by the outstanding performances in the second ODI, openers Shafali Verma and Smriti Mandhana, however, failed to make a big impact. Mandhana was the first to

depart (6 off 20 balls) as she fell victim to a length delivery from Kavisha Dilhari after her attempted cut landed in keeper's gloves. With a half-century under her belt, Shafali, continued her good form getting to 49 off 50 balls with some crisp shots. She missed on her second half-century on trot by a whisker, after Rashmi Silva trapped her leg before.

With 155 runs from three matches and with an impressive average of 77.50, Shafali finished as the leading run scorer in the three-match ODI series.

With Shafali departing at a crucial juncture, India suddenly had a middle-order collapse as they were left tottering at 124 for 6 before Harmanpreet turned the tables around in style.



Visit to Karripode village in God's own country



The lush green paddy fields at Karripode.



A giant tree at Karripode Village.

Murli Menon

One has just returned after a close encounter with nature at Karripode village in Kerala State. Karripode is a 30 minute drive away from Palakkad, on the fringes of the "Neliampathy Hills".

One passes the historical village of Chittoor along the way. We are welcomed by a group of cattle egrets flying in formation, as soon as we enter Palakkad. We start our jungle safari in an open jeep and soon find ourselves in the middle of thick evergreen forests with no habitation in sight as far as eye can see. After thirty minutes of driving through the jungle, one sees a large water body in the distance. We are informed by our guide that the water body is not a lake but a fresh water spring surrounded by rocks. The water is crystal clear and transparent and surrounded on all four sides by small rocky hills.

We come to the edges of this giant lake to find hundreds of birds. It is a pleasure to watch a multitude of colourful birds at close quarters, as they flock to the edge of the water. The water is shallow and swampy and boating is not possible, so one has to be content watching the birds from a distance. However, the deep blue sky, reflected in the crystal clearness of the waters is a joy to behold. Watching the crimson sunset over the Parakund (Malayalam for Rocky lake) is memorable.

After a brief stop to watch the birds, one goes deeper into the jungle to spot the Giant Malabar Squirrel. After an hour of driving through the jungle one can see a glimpse of this magnificent creature. Giant Malabar Squirrels are black in colour but have two large elliptical brown spots one on each side of their body which makes them look incredibly attractive to behold. Giant Malabar Squirrels are shy creatures and disappear at great speed on hearing the sound of approaching humans. Hence the ideal strategy to spot these gentle and shy friends, is to alight from the tree a kilometer away and

stealthily trek towards them in a non menacing way and shoot with the zoom lens as I did. Giant Malabar Squirrels live on the peepal trees and use their sharp teeth to eat mangoes, papayas and jackfruits.

Karripode, situated on the border with Tamil Nadu is a sanctuary for the Giant Malabar Squirrel and several other colourful birds. This extraordinary area gets partly inundated by about 2 feet of water in the monsoon months (July-September). Once below sea level, this area was raised by earth movements which cut it off from the Eastern Ghats. It was broken up by later earth movements into flat farmlands (where people can be seen growing rice) and higher grounds with sandy, salt-free soil. The Giant Malabar Squirrel depends on the thorny scrub of the higher ground area for its feed. The other wildlife at Karripode includes blue bull, wolves, hyenas, desert foxes, jackals, wild-cats, and caracals.

How to get there?

Karripode is 15 km. away from Palakkad Town. The non-stop drive from Palakkad to Karripode should not exceed thirty minutes.

By road:

Visitors traveling by road have to drive from Palakkad to Karripode which is approximately 15 km.

By air:

The nearest airport to reach Pallaad is at Coimbatore. Coimbatore is connected by direct flights from most Indian cities. Karripode is a 45 km. drive from Coimbatore airport which takes approximately 60 to 90 minutes.

By train:

Palakkad Railway Station is the nearest railhead to reach Karripode. From Palakkad private buses ply to Karripode.

All trains going to Kochi and Thiruvanthapuram via Coimbatore stop



Sunset over Karripode Village.

at Palakkad.

Where to stay?

Homestays are the only option for tourists who want to visit Parakund. A family of four can avail a homestay at Rs. 500/- per night, exclusive of food. Breakfast, lunch and dinner which includes traditional Kerala delicacies like idlis, dosas, injipuli (ginger with tamarind), rice and elisseri (pumpkin) can be home delivered from the small eateries at Karripode.

Where to eat?

Lots of small restaurants serving Malayalee vegetarian cuisine dot Palakkad. Freshly steamed vegetables with spices, cooked in coconut milk, with hot freshly steamed idlis are available at most roadside dhabas. The food at the high profile hotels is only for the gastronomically adventurous who like greasy food. Vegans can opt for fresh tropical fruits including water-melons, papayas, tender coconuts, pineapples which are available at the local market.



Traditional Kerala food at Karripode served on a plaintain leaf.

(Murli Menon, is a travel writer, stress management consultant and author based at Ahmedabad, India. He is the author of "ZeNLP-Learning through stories" published by The Written Word Publications, "ZeNLP-the power to succeed" published by Sage publications and "ZeNLP-the power to relax" by New Dawn Press. He can be reached at zenlp@rediffmail.com)



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Know India Programme

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61st

26 September - 16 October, 2022

Last date of Registration : 19-08-2022

62nd

01 November - 21 November, 2022

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61st KIP

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Last date to register : 19-08-2022
Partner State : Gujarat

62nd KIP

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TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR PLAN AND TO REGISTER, VISIT
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